DK

WHAT'S WHERE ON EARTH

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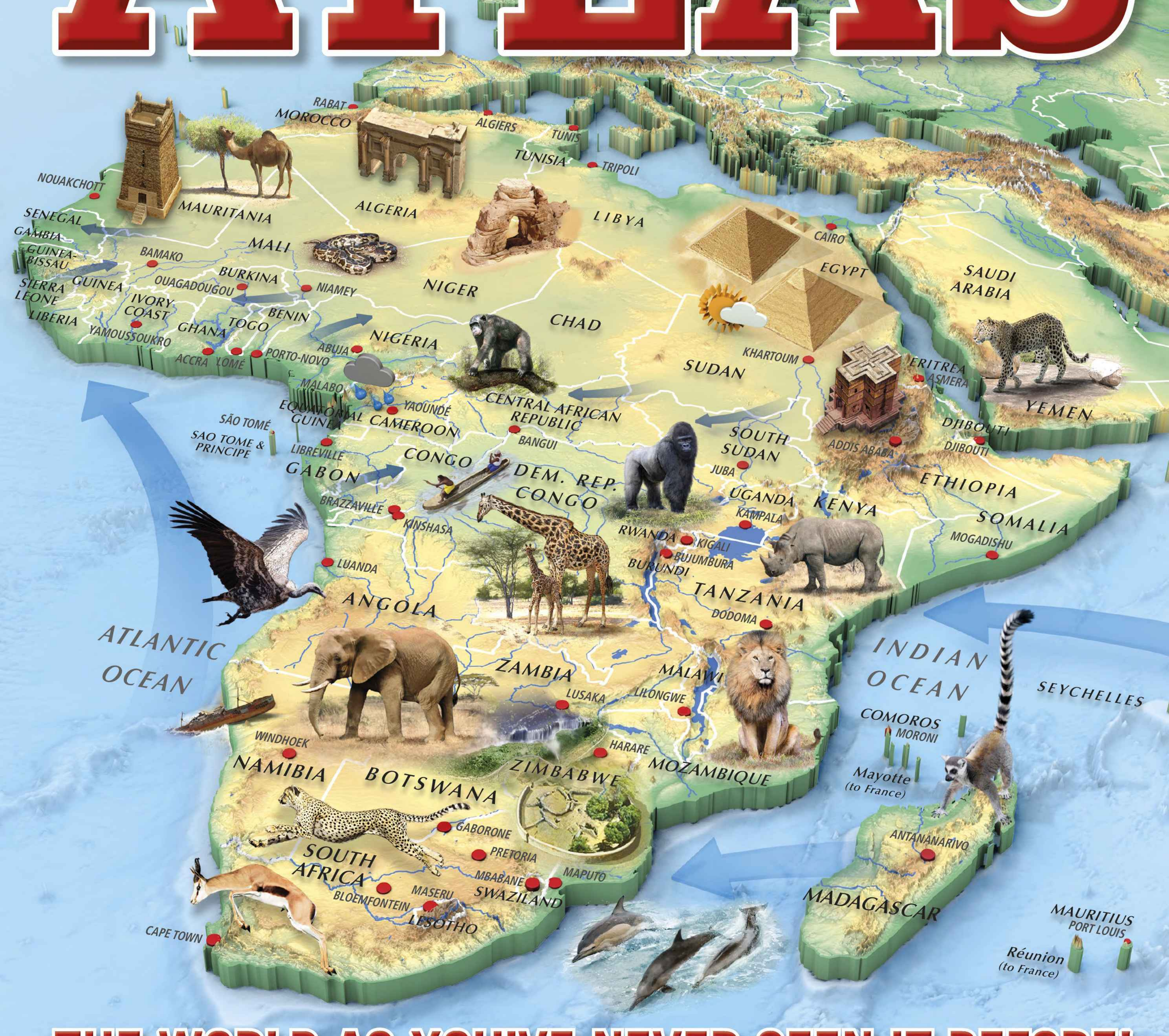
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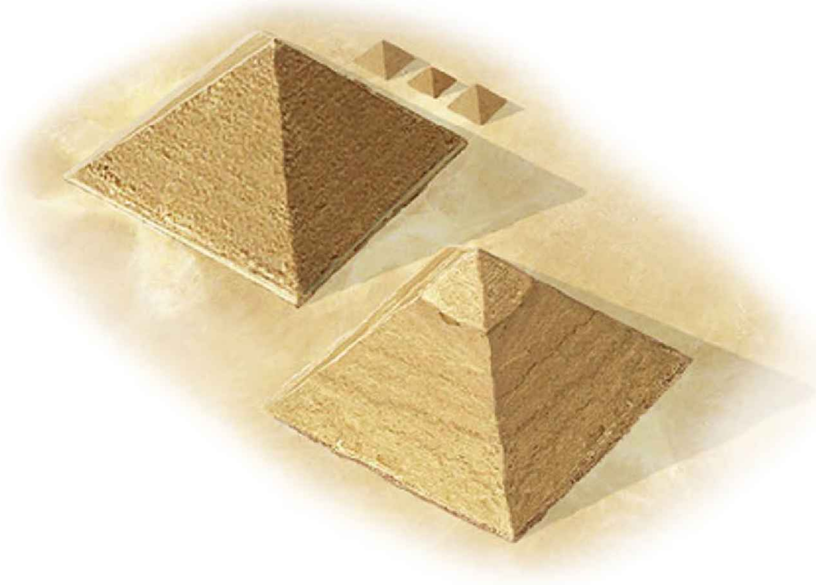

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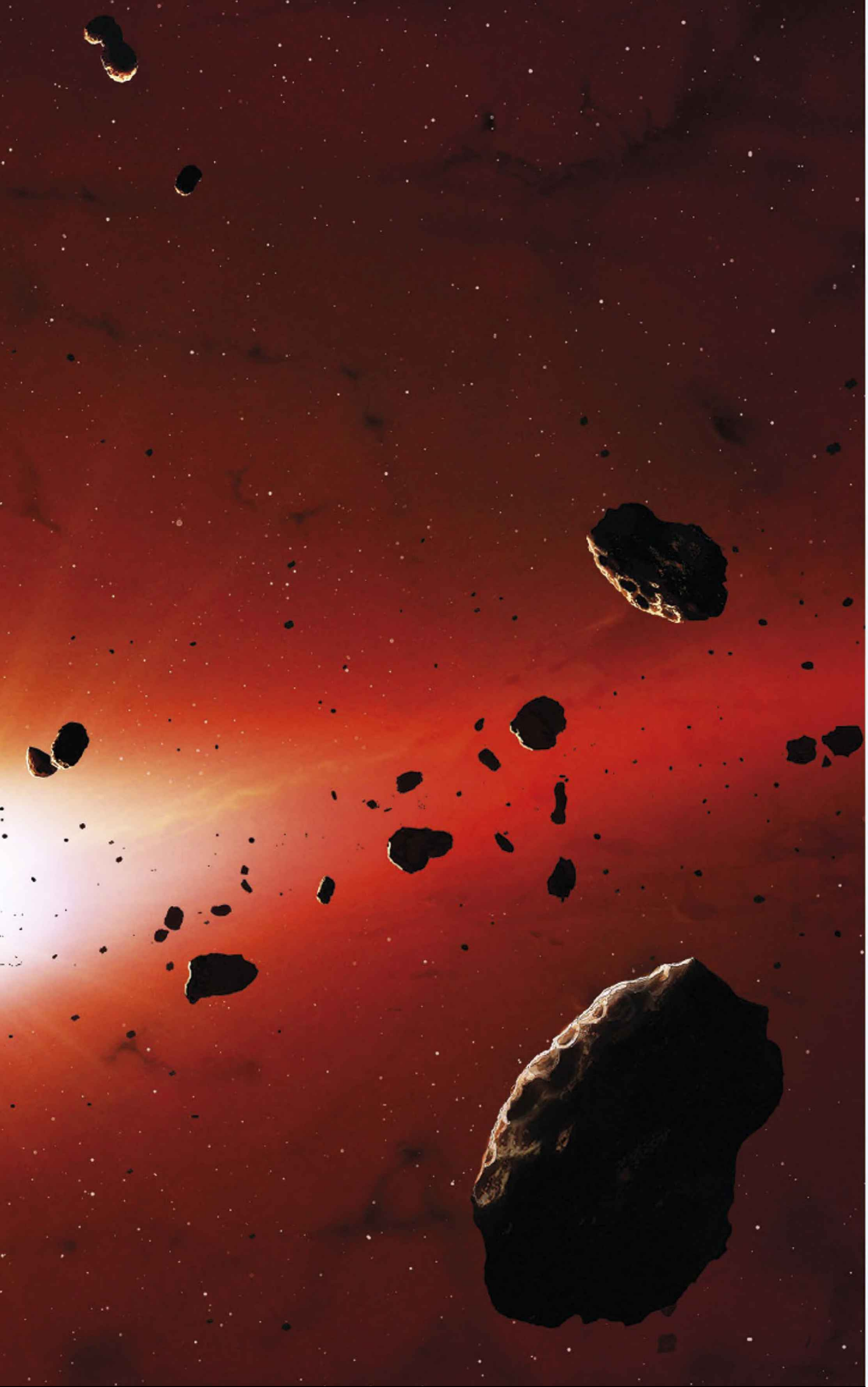


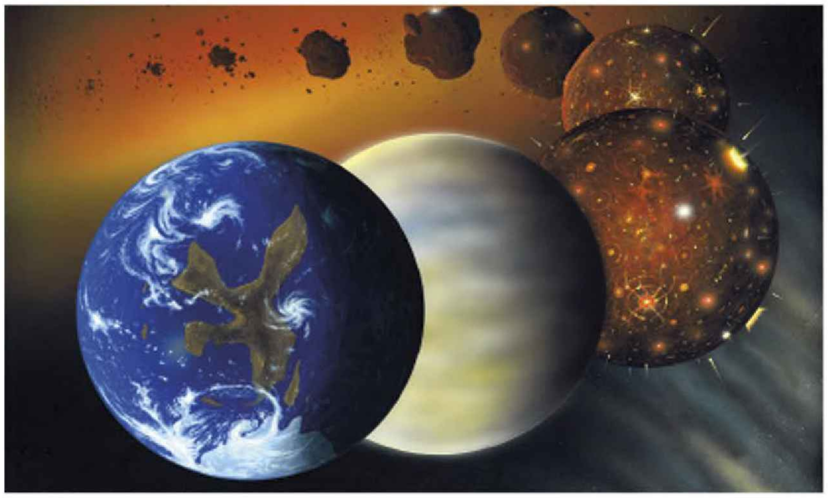
EARLY EARTH

Under attack
Rock and debris from space crashed into Earth's surface during its early formation, turning it molten and triggering volcanic activity.

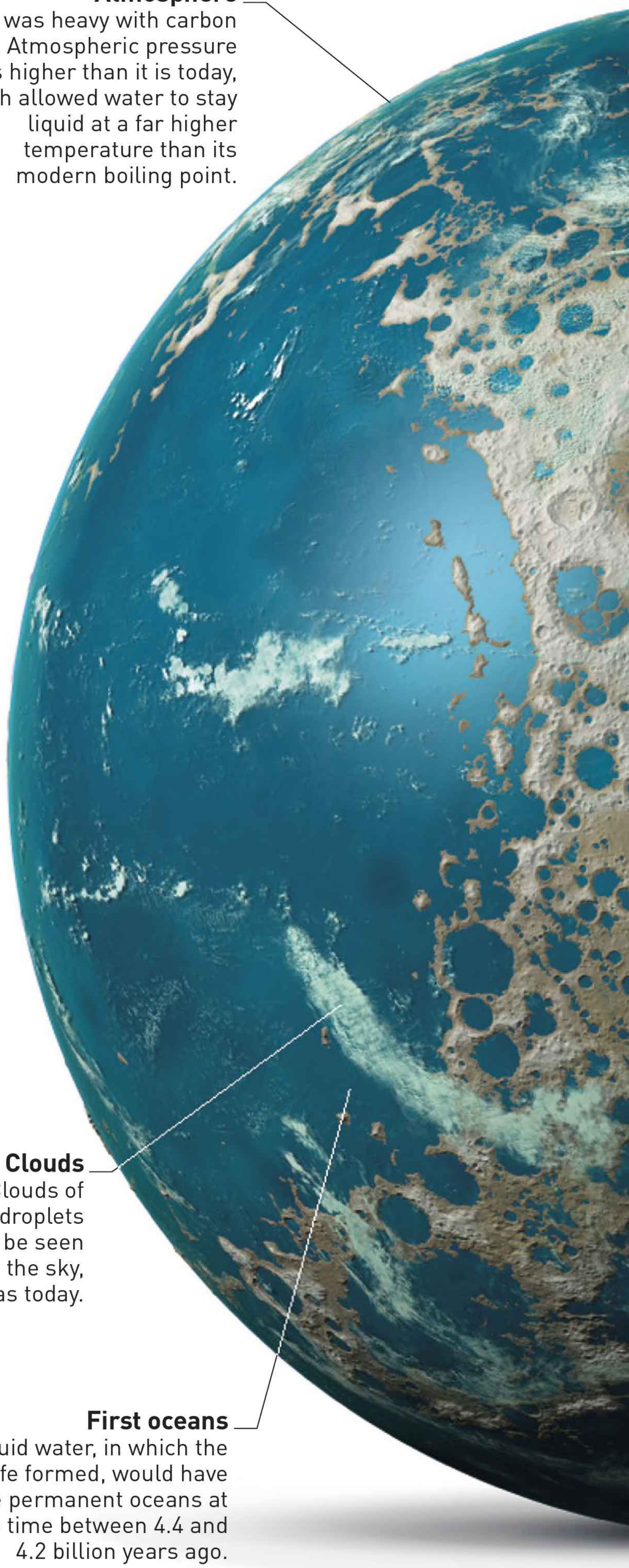
Early Earth

Earth's formation started shortly after the birth of the Sun, 4.6 billion years ago. A star exploding in nearby space caused a vast amount of interstellar dust to collapse in on itself. This formed our Sun, and over time the rest of the surrounding debris clumped together into planets. As these grew larger, their steadily increasing gravity pulled them into spheres. One of these was our planet, Earth, a rocky ball with a molten metal core, and a thin shell, called a crust, at its surface.

The layered interior structure of Earth emerged early in its evolution. Heat from Earth's molten core forced the crust, which is made up of large slabs of rock called tectonic plates, to move constantly. As these plates shunted around and crashed into each other, they caused earthquakes and fiery volcanoes, formed mountain ranges and entire continents, and helped create the conditions in which life could emerge.



This illustration shows the sequence of Earth's formation – from small fragments of rock and dust sticking together, to a planet with its own atmosphere.



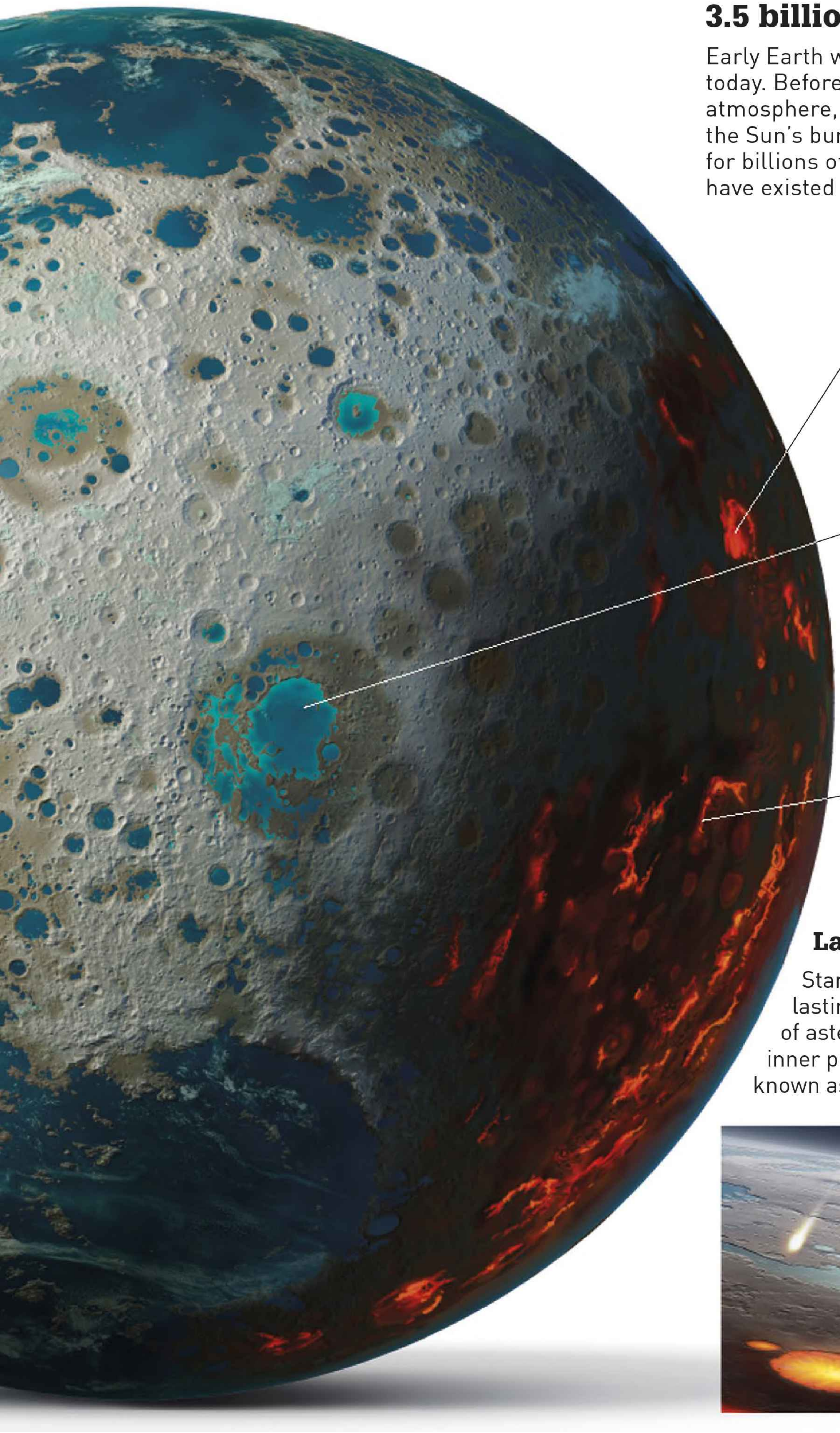
Atmosphere
The air was heavy with carbon dioxide. Atmospheric pressure was higher than it is today, which allowed water to stay liquid at a far higher temperature than its modern boiling point.

Clouds
Clouds of water droplets could be seen in the sky, much as today.

First oceans
Liquid water, in which the first life formed, would have become permanent oceans at some time between 4.4 and 4.2 billion years ago.

3.5 billion years ago

Early Earth was quite different from the world we know today. Before the ozone layer developed in the atmosphere, exposed land was unprotected from the Sun's burning radiation, and remained lifeless for billions of years. However, conditions for life may have existed in the deep oceans and the shallow seas.



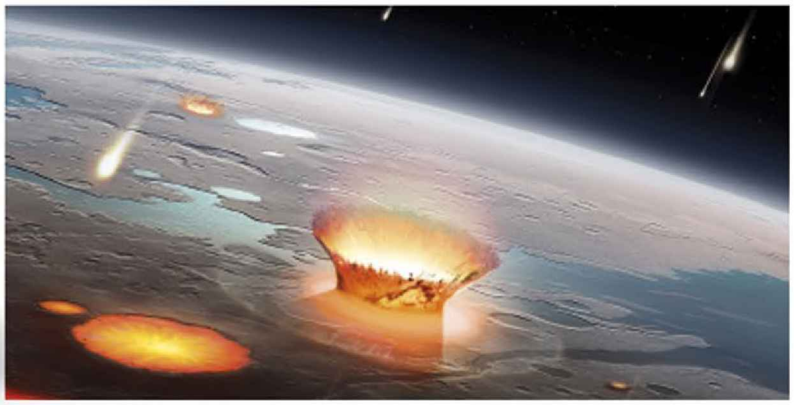
Lava flows
As asteroid impacts triggered volcanic activity, lava could fill craters.

Isolated oceans
Cooling seas, cut off from the violence going on elsewhere on the planet, may have provided the conditions from which the first life forms would emerge.

Volcanic activity
Volcanoes threw out minerals that, at calmer locations, may have helped produce the ingredients needed to create life.

Late Heavy Bombardment

Starting around 4.1 billion years ago and lasting for 200 million years, a huge number of asteroids crashed into the Solar System's inner planets, including Earth. This period is known as the Late Heavy Bombardment.

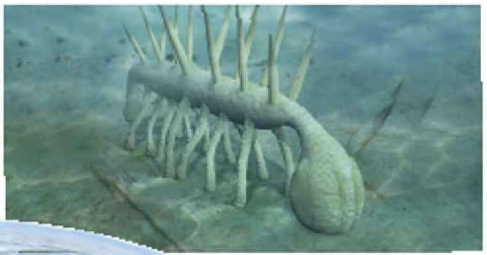


500 million years ago

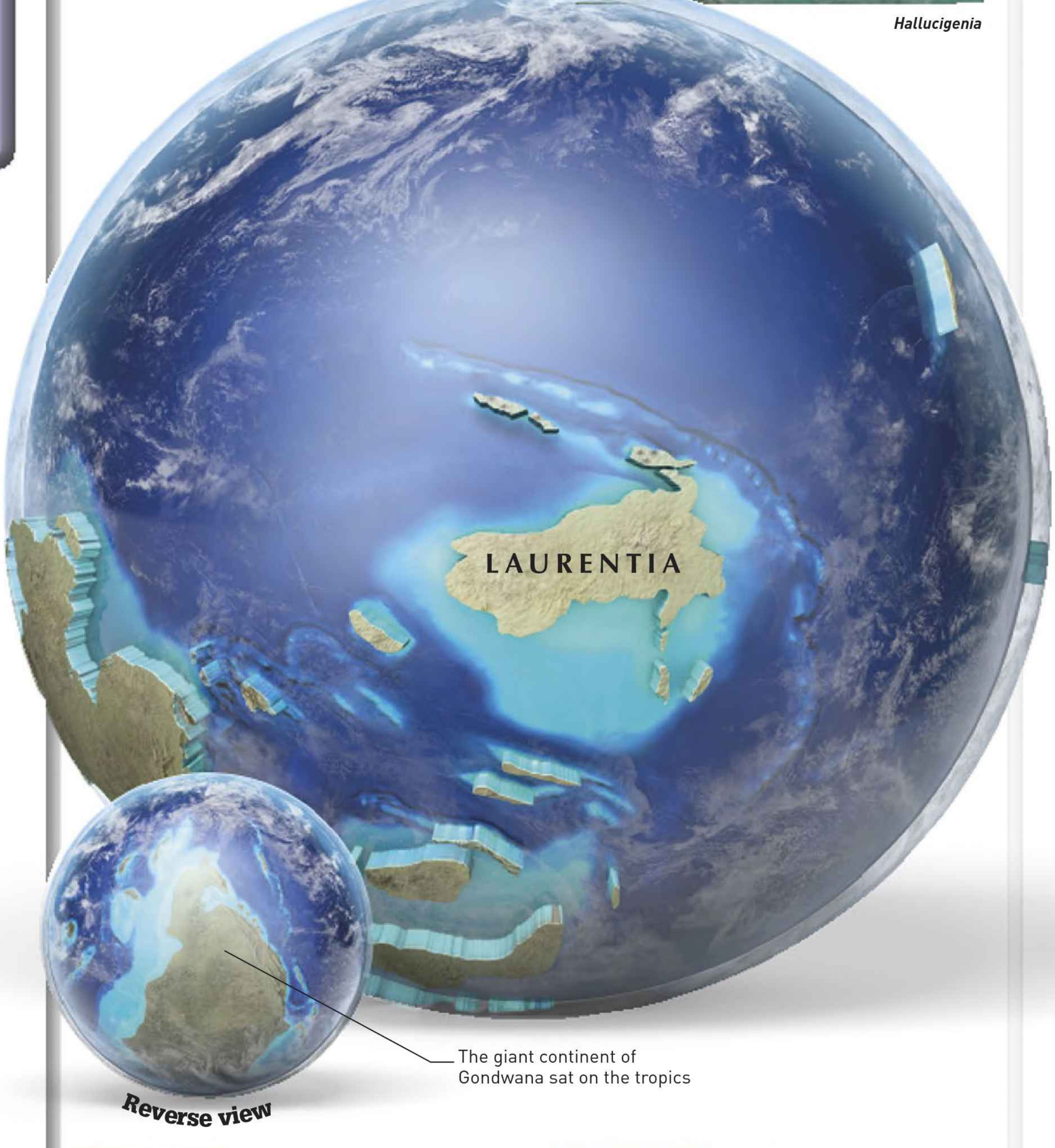
By this stage of Earth's history two major continents had formed. The largest, Gondwana, was mainly tropical. Laurentia (now North America) had also drifted from the polar regions to the tropics and sat on the Equator. Temperatures were mild across the globe, but cooling.

In the water

Many life forms developed in the warm, shallow seas, including marine invertebrates such as *Hallucigenia*, a worm with limbs.



Hallucigenia



The giant continent of Gondwana sat on the tropics

Lifeless land

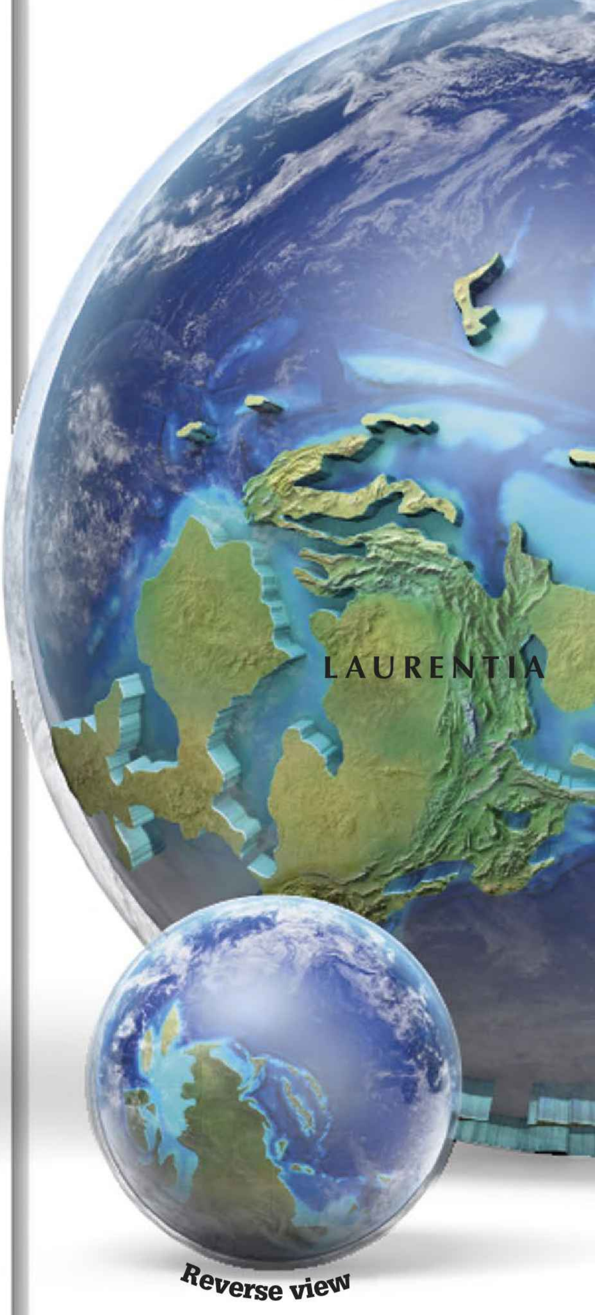
Carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere were 15 times higher than today, and no animals could survive on land.

Early algae

There was no land vegetation, but many types of algae (plant-like oganisms that live in the sea) had appeared and diversified.

420 million years ago

Continents continued to shift. Avalonia (now split across present-day southern Britain and Canada) moved north to collide with Laurentia. Siberia headed north and Gondwana south, taking most of present-day Australia and Antarctica into the southern hemisphere. Sea levels started to rise.

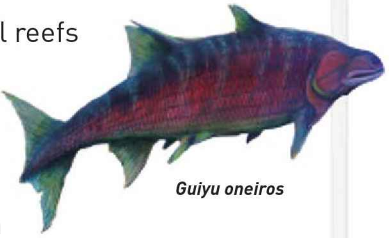


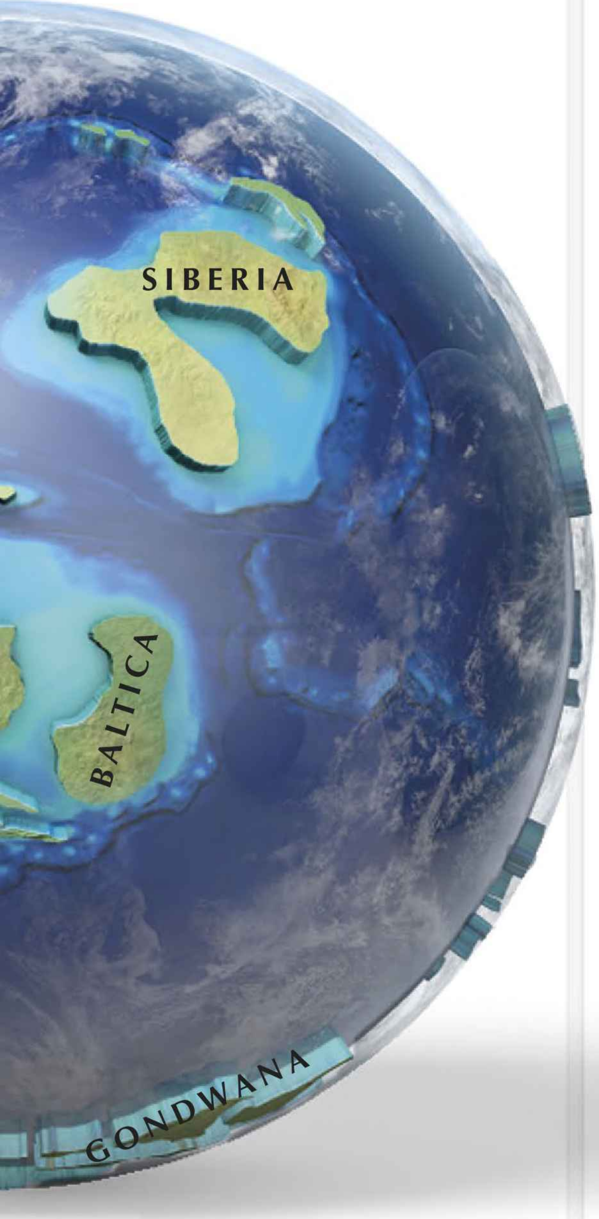
Animals

Millipedes, such as the one below, were the first known oxygen-breathing animals on land.

In the water

The first coral reefs and fish appeared. *Guiyu oneiros* remains dating back to 419 million years ago have been found in Yunnan province, China.


Guiyu oneiros



Cooksonia

Plants

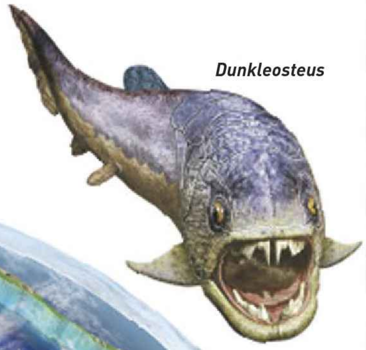
The tiny, but upright, *Cooksonia* was one of the first plants to colonize land. It was short, had branching stems, and lived in damp habitats.

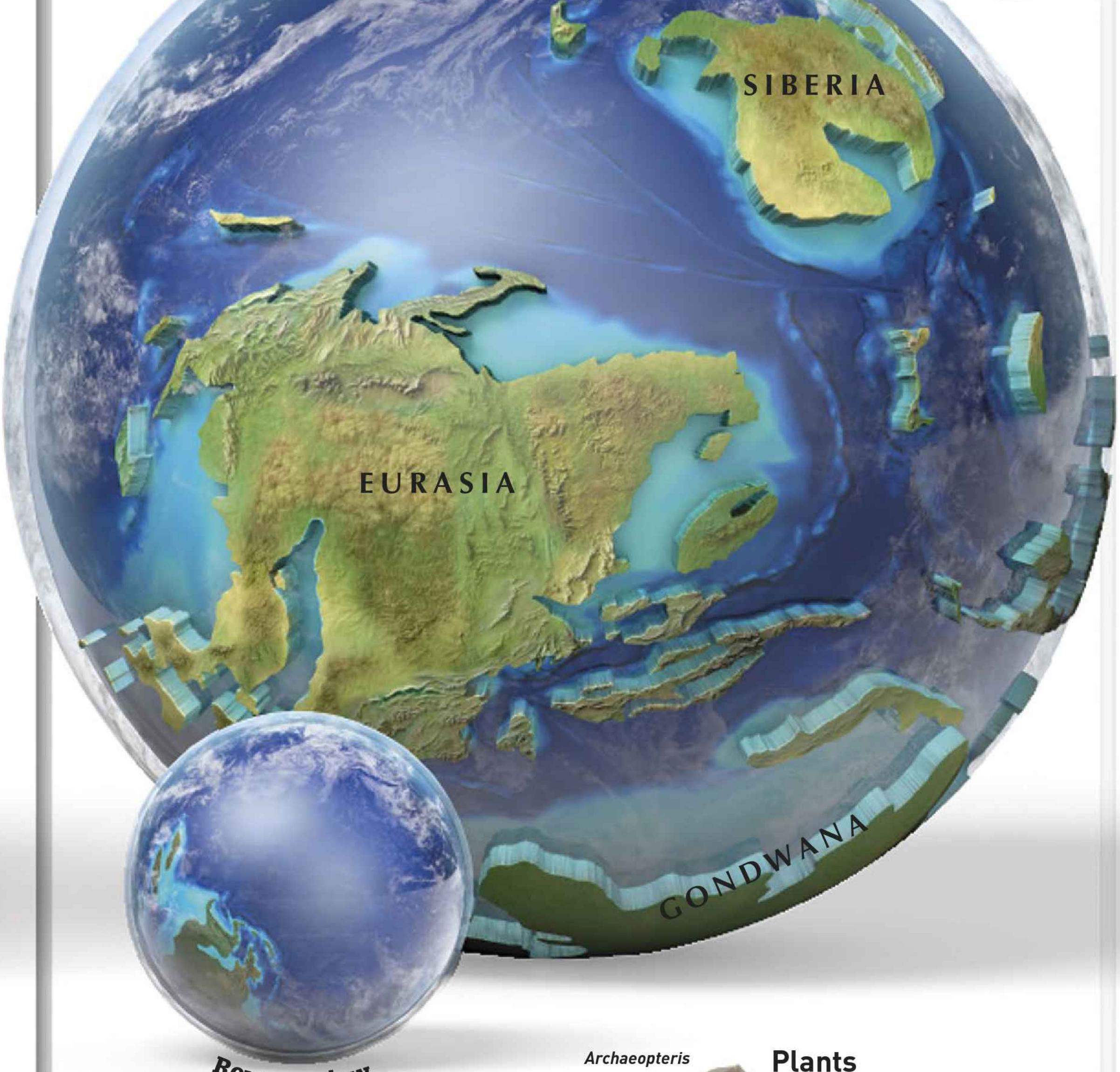
380 million years ago

Laurentia and Baltica collided, closing up the Iapetus Ocean and forming the continent of Eurasia. The collision created the Appalachian-Caledonide Mountain Range, which extended from Scandinavia to the Appalachian Mountains in North America. Gondwana rotated clockwise, approaching Eurasia.

In the water

The "Age of Fish" saw a variety of lobe-finned fish and jawed predators. Placoderms (armoured fish) included the mighty *Dunkleosteus*.

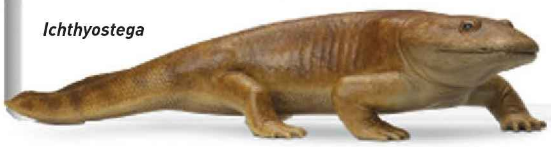

Dunkleosteus



Reverse view

Fish with legs

The first tetrapods (four-legged animals) developed. The earliest were like fish with legs, such as *Ichthyostega*.


Ichthyostega

Archaeopteris

Plants

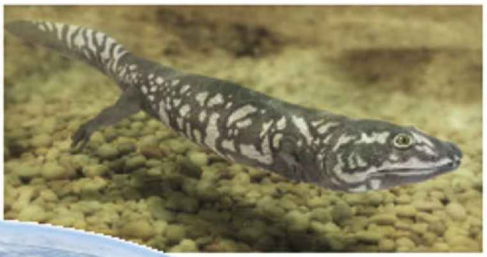
The landmasses turned green as woody, spore-bearing plants such as *Archaeopteris*, a treelike plant with ferny leaves, created major forests and swamps.

300 million years ago

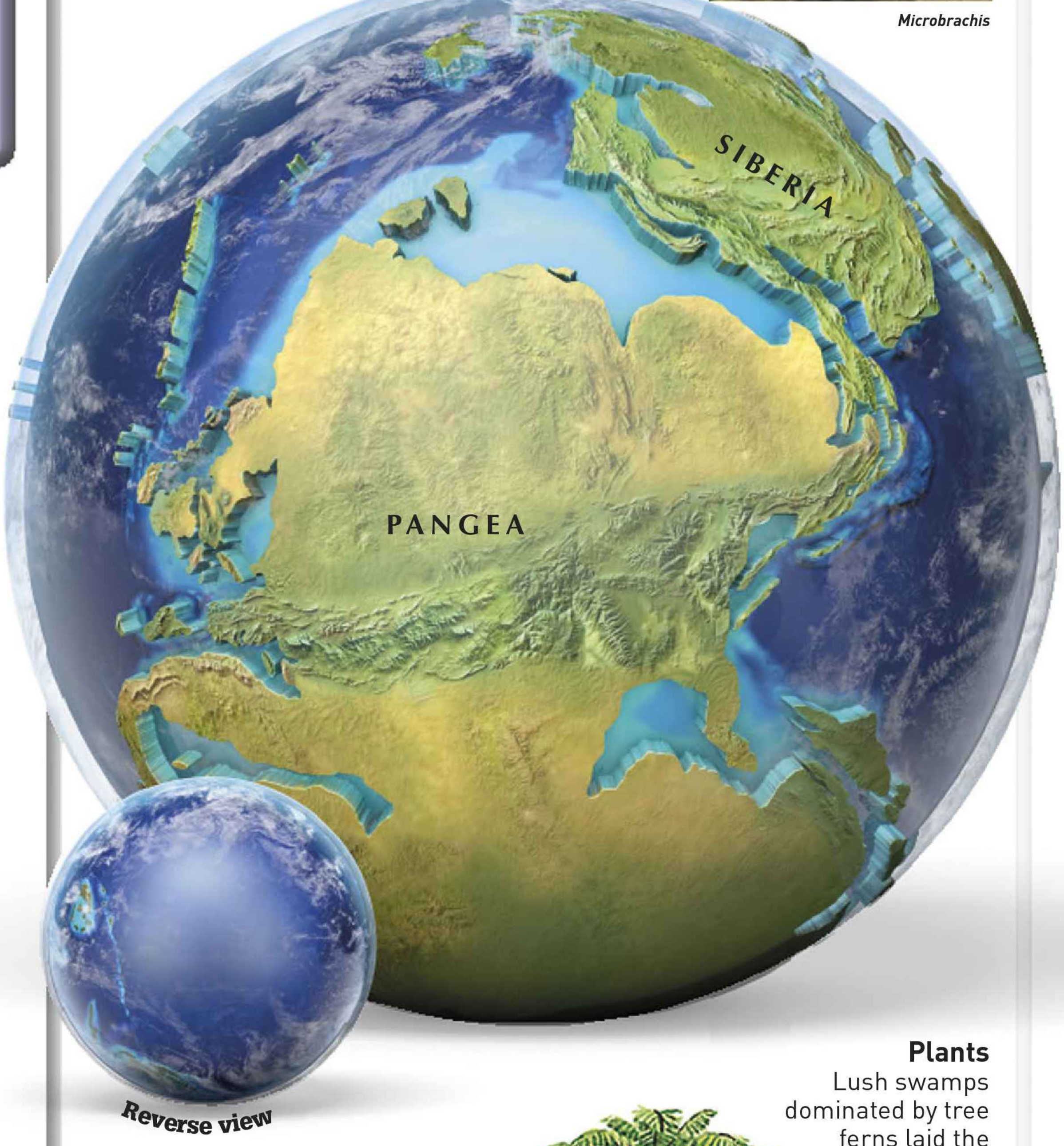
By 300 million years ago, Eurasia had merged with Gondwana to form the supercontinent Pangea, which extended from high in the northern hemisphere to the South Pole, where ice caps spread. Siberia collided with eastern Europe, creating the Ural Mountains.

In the water

Fish and aquatic tetrapods, such as *Microbrachis* ("tiny limbs"), shared the seas with corals, crinoids (sea lilies), and brachiopods (molluscs).



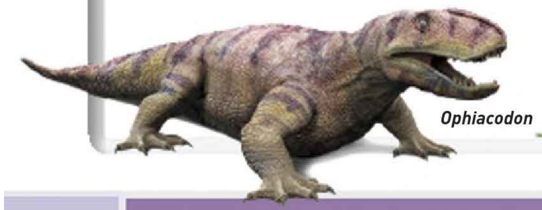
Microbrachis



Reverse view

Animals

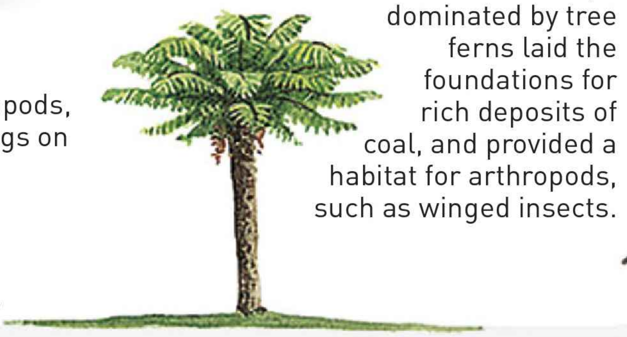
The shelled egg evolved, so tetrapods, such as *Ophiacodon*, could lay eggs on land without them drying out.



Ophiacodon

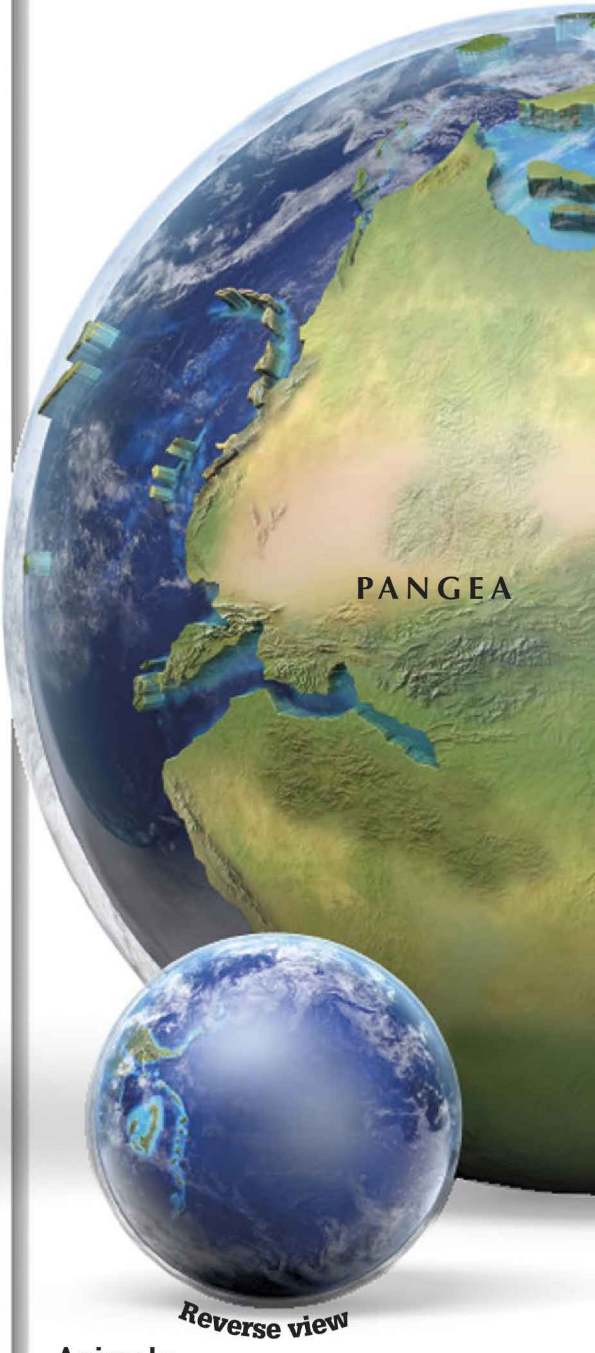
Plants

Lush swamps dominated by tree ferns laid the foundations for rich deposits of coal, and provided a habitat for arthropods, such as winged insects.



250 million years ago

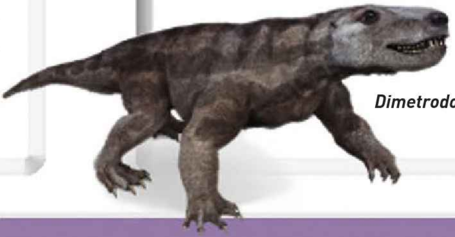
All the continents were absorbed into the giant supercontinent Pangea. Global sea levels fell, while, in Siberia, massive volcanic eruptions poured out ash and gases, poisoning both the atmosphere and the oceans. Such events led to a global mass extinction.



Reverse view

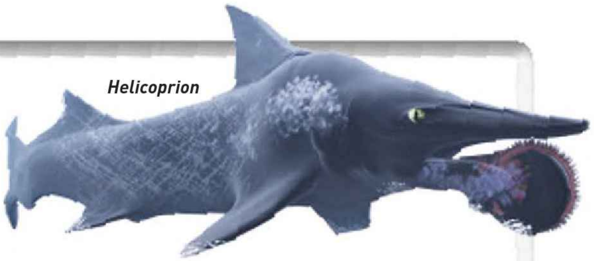
Animals

About 70 per cent of land species became extinct, including *Dimetrodon*.



Dimetrodon

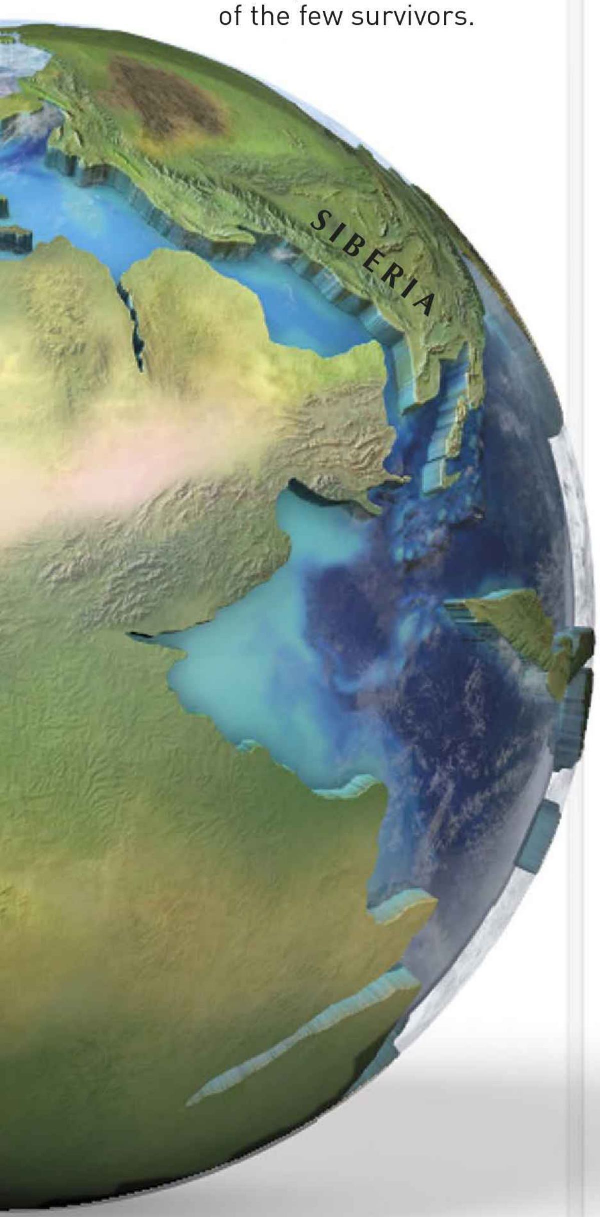
AROUND 250 MILLION YEARS AGO, A MASS EXTINCTION WIPED



Helicoprion

In the water

Falling sea levels exposed reefs. An estimated 95 per cent of marine species died out in the mass extinction – *Helicoprion* was one of the few survivors.



Glossopteris

Plants

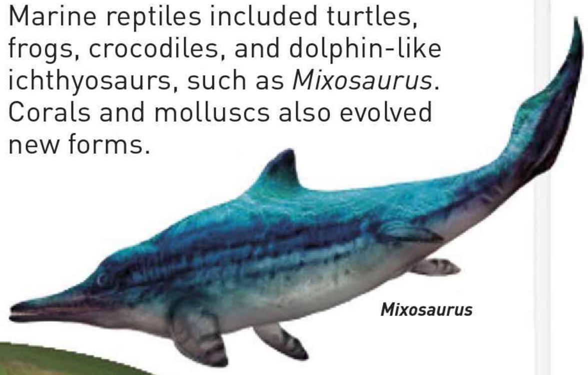
Half of all plant species died out. *Glossopteris*, widespread for 50 million years, declined, as did conifers, horsetails, and ferns.

220 million years ago

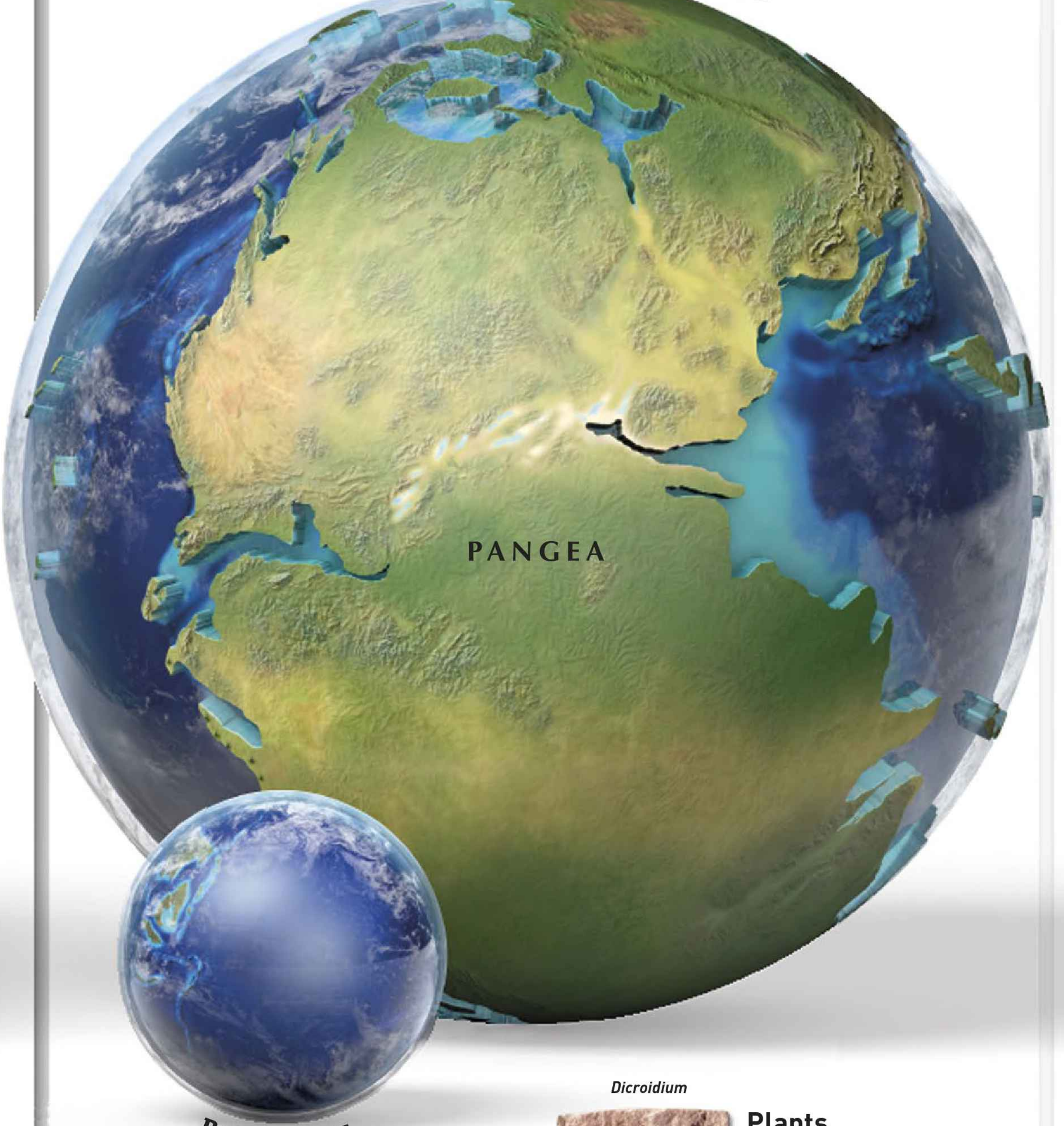
Pangea was at its largest – it extended from pole to pole – and sea levels had lowered. The supercontinent moved north, rotating anticlockwise. New life forms, including dinosaurs, started to evolve on the land.

In the water

Marine reptiles included turtles, frogs, crocodiles, and dolphin-like ichthyosaurs, such as *Mixosaurus*. Corals and molluscs also evolved new forms.



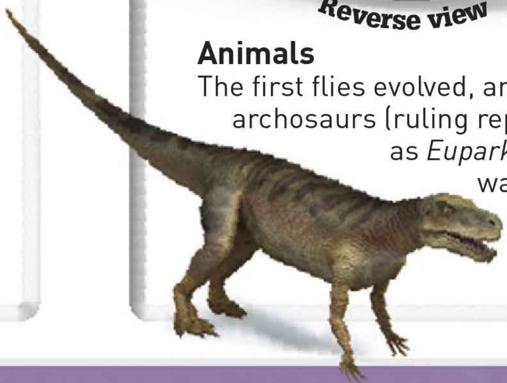
Mixosaurus



Reverse view

Animals

The first flies evolved, and early archosaurs (ruling reptiles), such as *Euparkeria*, paved the way for dinosaurs.



Euparkeria

Dicroidium

Plants

Vegetation adapted to the dry climate. Flora included conifers and the seed fern *Dicroidium*, which was distributed throughout Pangea.

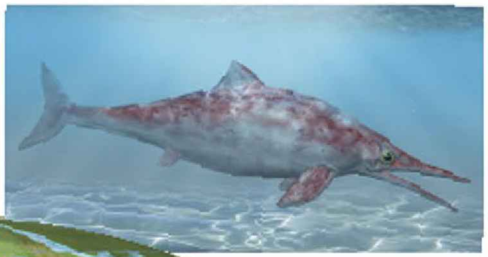
OUT WELL OVER HALF OF ALL KNOWN PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES.

180 million years ago

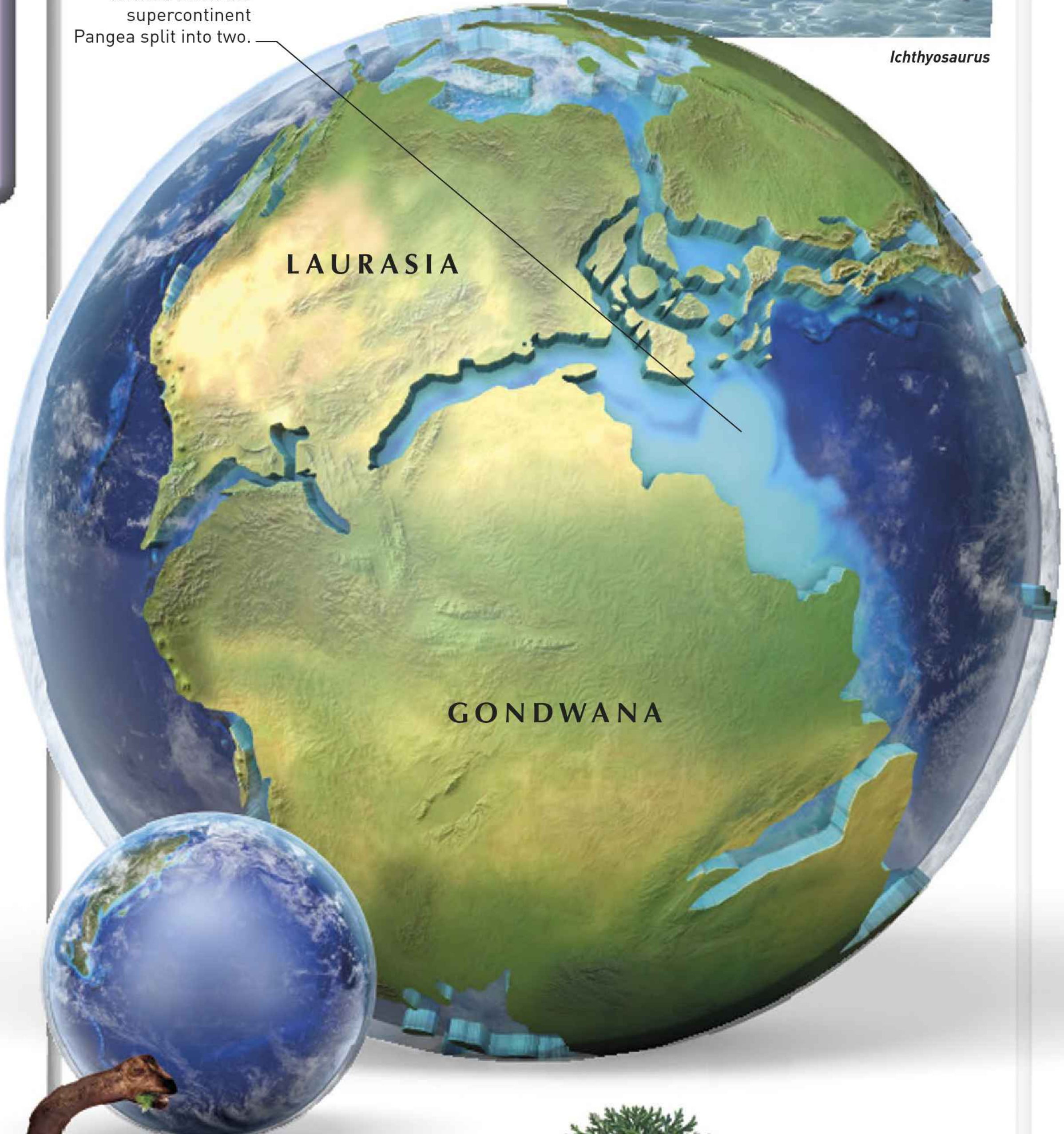
The supercontinent Pangea separated into Laurasia in the north and Gondwana in the south, divided by the ever-growing Tethys Ocean. The climate was warm with no evidence of glaciation.

In the water

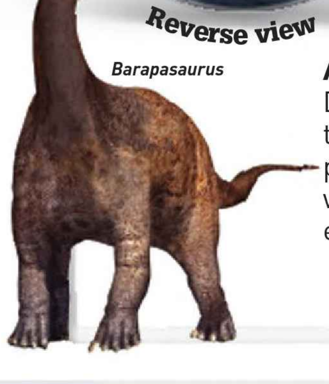
The oceans were full of fish and marine reptiles, such as *Ichthyosaurus*, as well as bivalves (such as mussels), starfish, and sea urchins.



Ichthyosaurus



Tethys Ocean – formed when the supercontinent Pangea split into two.



Barapasaurus

Animals

Dinosaurs dominated the land during this period. Among them was the giant, plant-eating *Barapasaurus*.

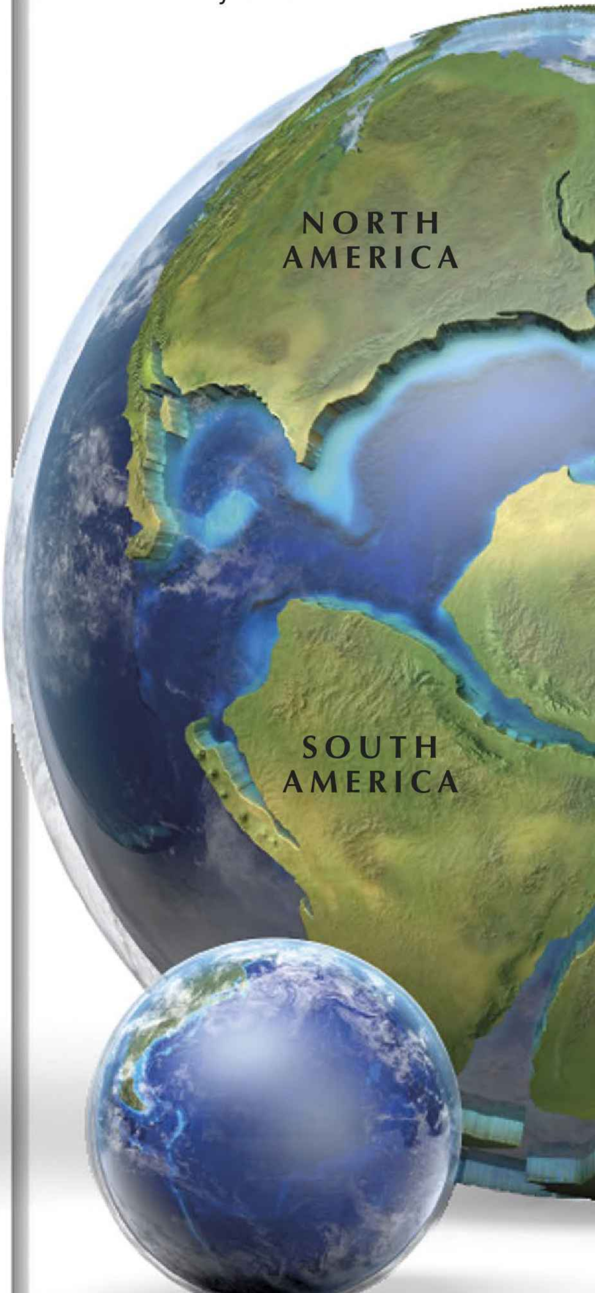
Monkey puzzle tree

Plants

Conifers, ginkgo, and monkey puzzle trees, dominated Laurasia. There were also ferns and palm-like cycads further south in tropical regions.

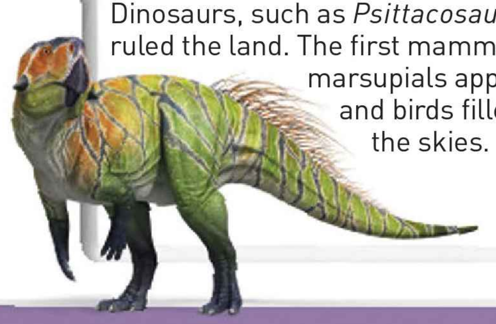
120 million years ago

Today's oceans began to take shape. The South Atlantic Ocean opened up as Africa and South America split apart, splintering Pangea further. North America was still attached to Europe, but India separated from western Australia and started to move in a northerly direction.



Animals

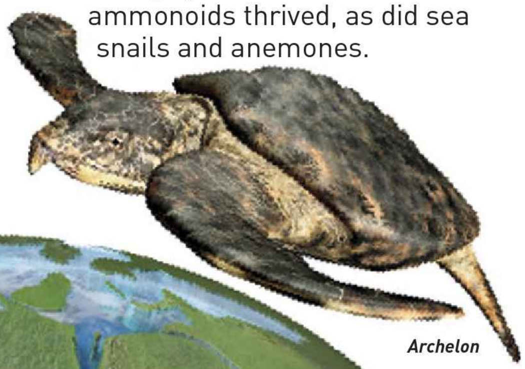
Dinosaurs, such as *Psittacosaurus*, ruled the land. The first mammals and marsupials appeared, and birds filled the skies.



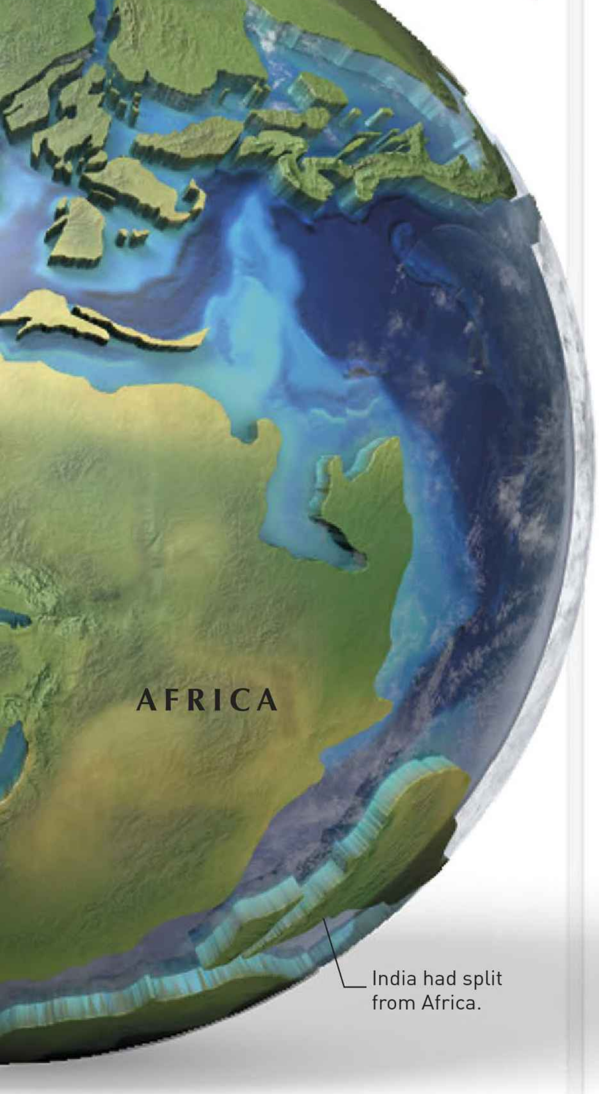
Psittacosaurus

MODERN-DAY MAMMAL GROUPS BEGAN TO

In the water
Archelon (giant sea turtles) and other sea reptiles flourished. New species of strangely coiled creatures called ammonoids thrived, as did sea snails and anemones.



Archelon



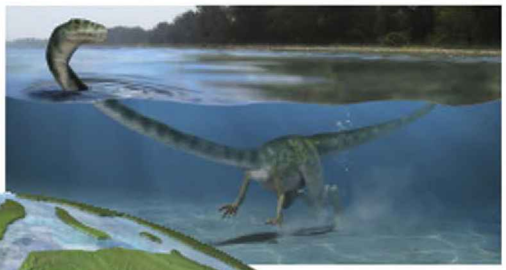
India had split from Africa.

Plants
The first angiosperms (flowering plants), such as magnolia, colonized the land, evolving alongside pollinating insects, including bees.

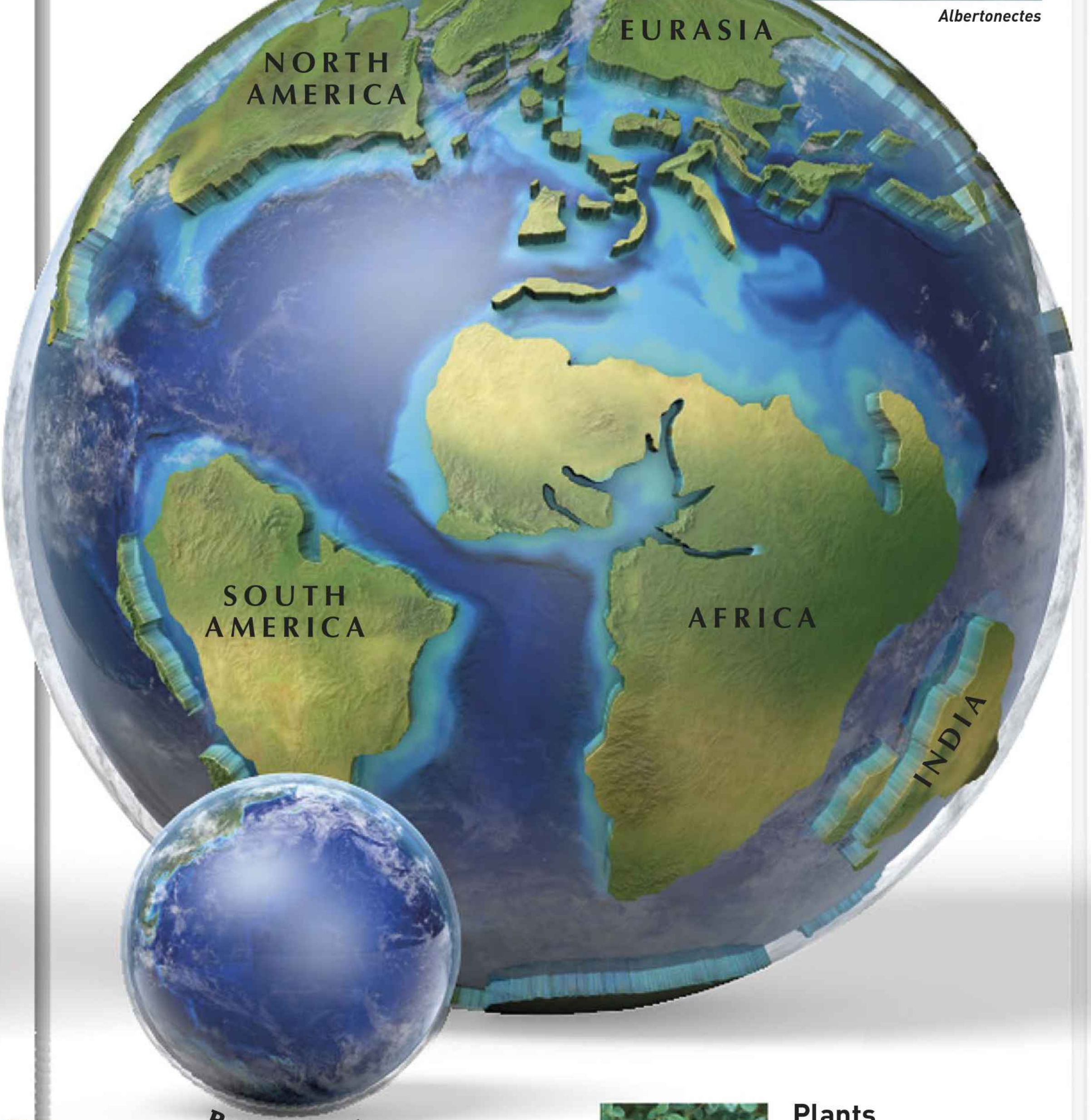
80 million years ago

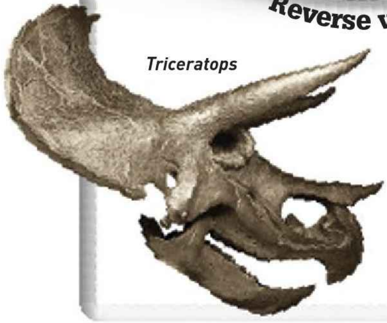
High sea levels flooded much of North America and created a seaway that extended from the Gulf of Mexico to the newly forming Atlantic Ocean. By 65 million years ago, India had collided with Asia, causing volcanic eruptions. An asteroid had hit Mexico, causing a mass extinction.

In the water
New types of shellfish continued to evolve and peculiar sea reptiles, such as the long-necked *Albertonectes*, came into being.



Albertonectes





Triceratops

Animals
New dinosaurs evolved, including *Triceratops*. Snakes, ants, and termites also emerged.

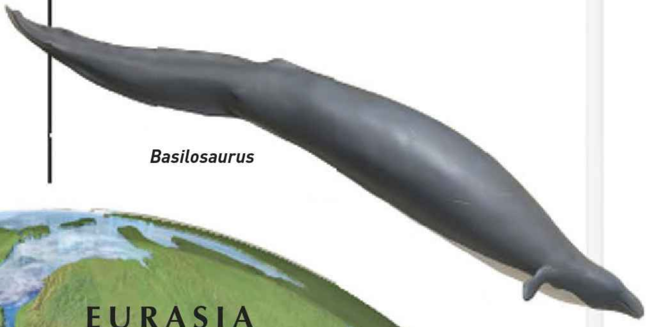
Plants
More flowering plants started to appear on land. Conifers and palm-like cycads spread, thanks to the success of their seed-bearing cones.

40 million years ago

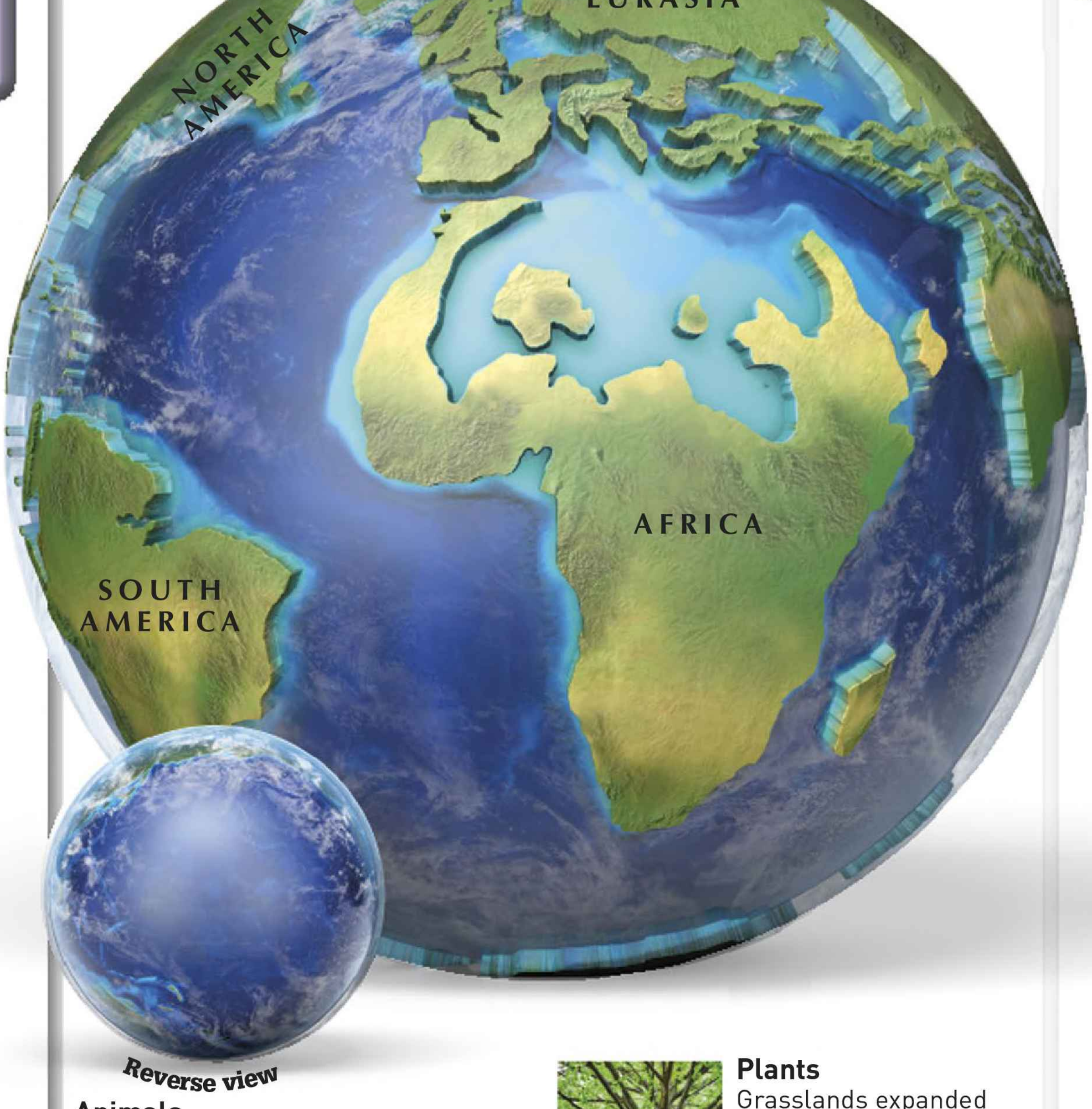
North and South America were separate, and Antarctica split away from Australia. These isolated landmasses saw animals and plants develop independently. Mountain ranges, such as the Rocky Mountains and the Himalayas, formed along plate margins, and the closing of the Tethys Ocean forced up the Alps.

In the water

Single-celled plankton were at their most diverse and coral reefs grew. At the other end of the size scale, *Basilosaurus* was an early whale.

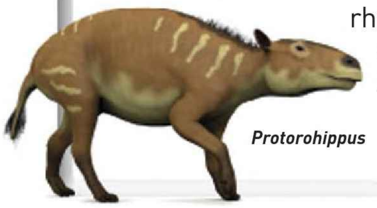


Basilosaurus



Animals

Moths, butterflies, birds, and bats flew above new mammals, such as rhinos, camels, and early horses, like *Protorohippus*.



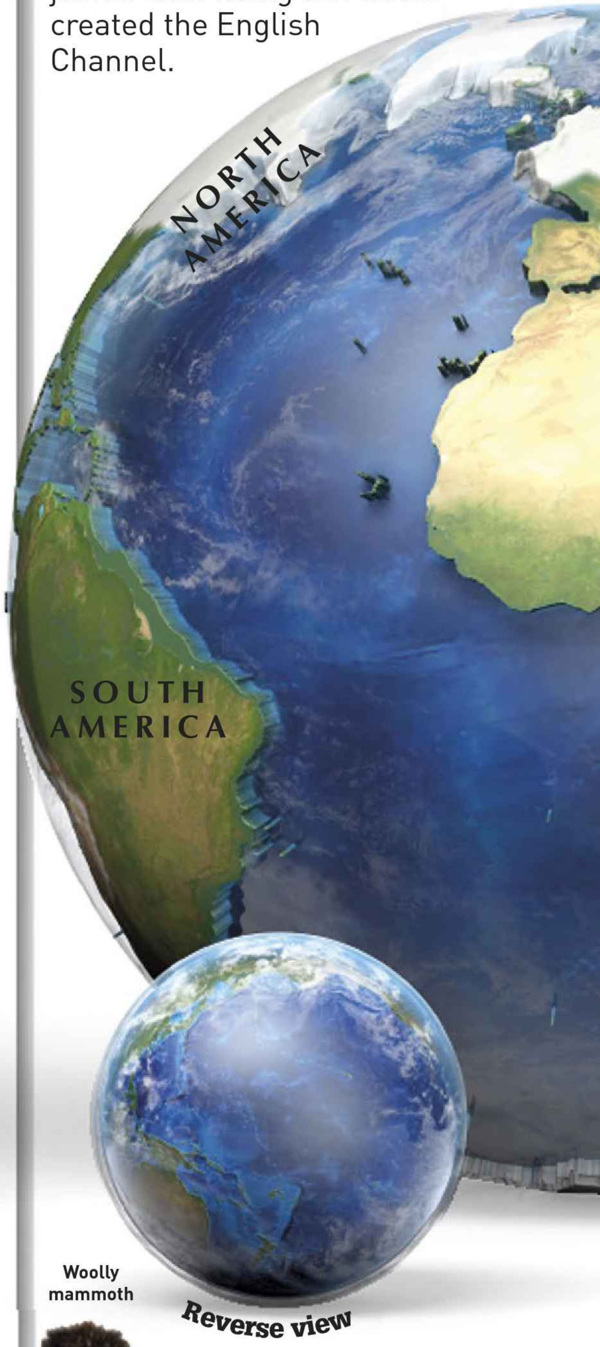
Protorohippus

Plants

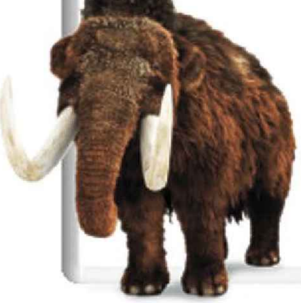
Grasslands expanded across the continents, and flowering plants and conifers were joined by deciduous trees, such as the beech.

50,000–18,000 years ago

Part of a cycle of ice ages, ocean levels fell and rose as glaciers advanced and retreated. India nudged further into Asia, Australia into Indonesia, and Africa and Arabia into Europe and Asia. France and England were joined until rising sea levels created the English Channel.

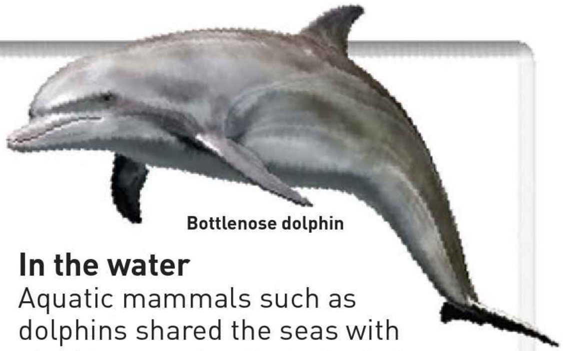


Woolly mammoth



Animals

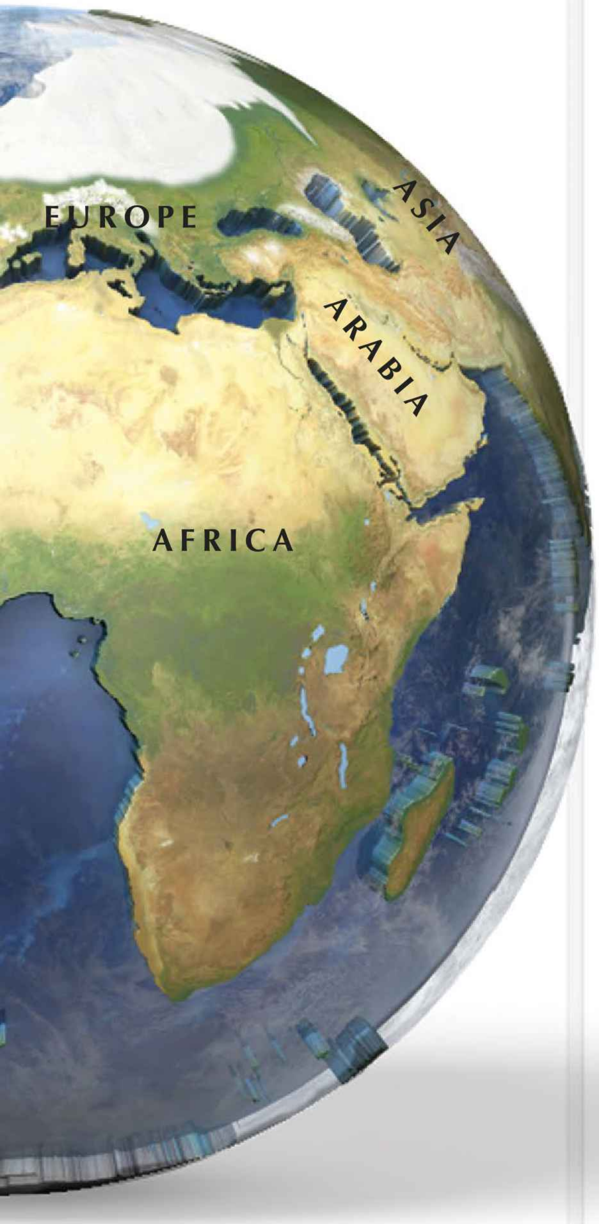
Giant mammals evolved, such as the woolly mammoth, with its thick fur coat for protection.



Bottlenose dolphin

In the water

Aquatic mammals such as dolphins shared the seas with plankton species that adapted to successive changes in the water temperature.



Plants

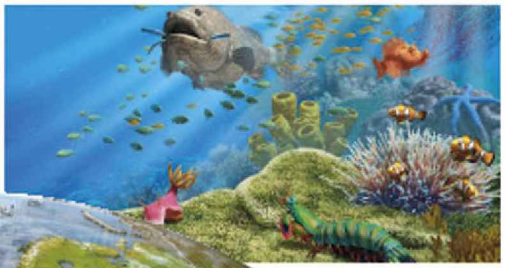
Steppe (grassland too dry for trees to grow) plant types expanded. Much land was tundra – so cold, dry, and windy, that only the hardiest plants grew.

Present day

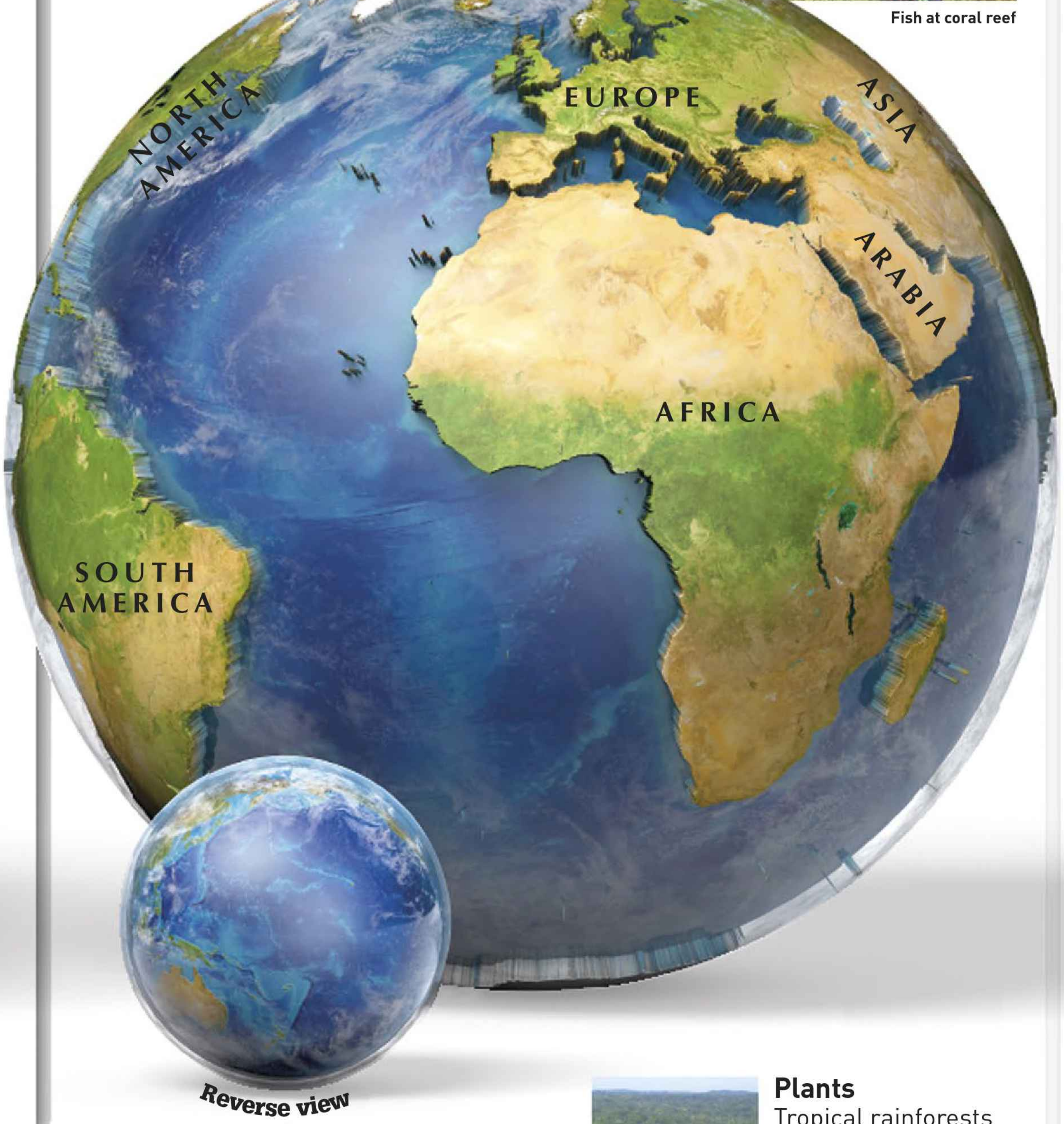
The last ice age ended and giant mammals became extinct around 12,000 years ago. By that time, humans had started to make their mark on the world. Human activity has triggered global warming and has affected natural cycles of glaciation. The consequences of this could have a major impact on life on Earth.

In the water

Coral reefs provide a habitat for up to a quarter of all marine species. Marine life is still diverse, with an estimated 2 million species living in the oceans.



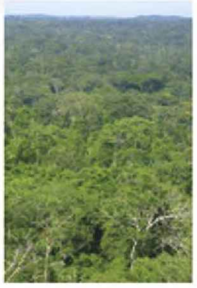
Fish at coral reef



Zebra

Animals

The land today is home to an estimated 6 million species of animal, including the zebra.

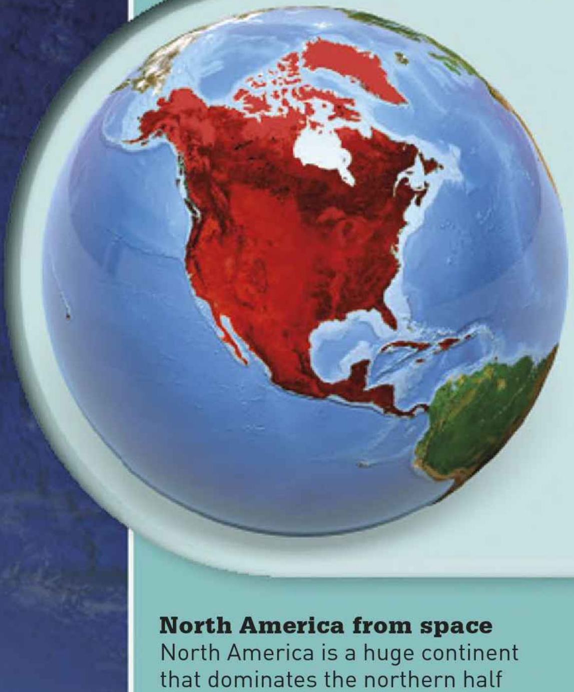


Plants

Tropical rainforests are home to about 40,000 known plant species, from tiny mosses to towering mahogany and kapok trees.

IN EL CASTILLO, SPAIN, AROUND 40,000 YEARS AGO.

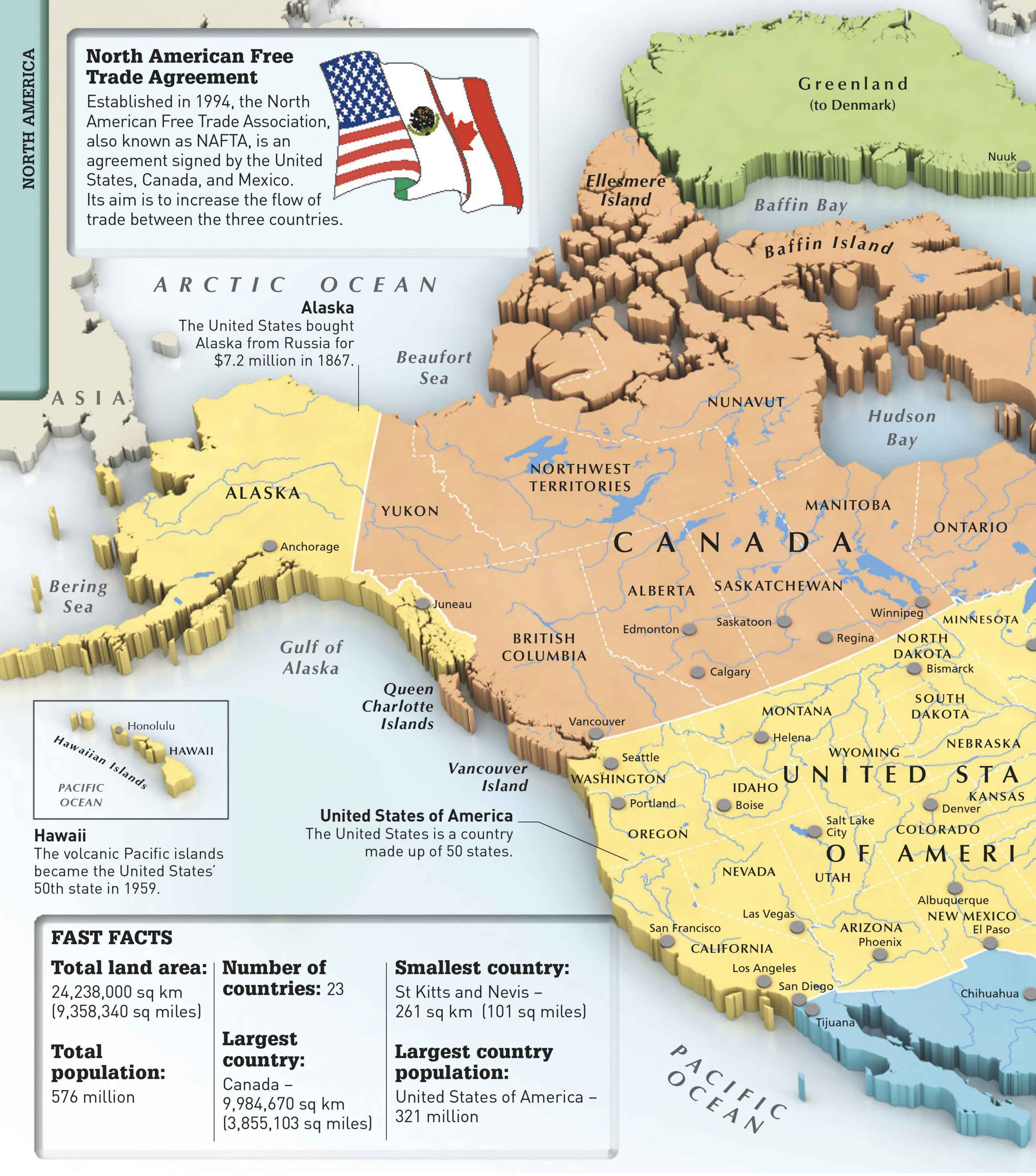
NORTH AMERICA



North America from space
North America is a huge continent that dominates the northern half of Earth's western hemisphere. From space, the Great Lakes and the Rocky Mountains are clearly visible.

North American Free Trade Agreement

Established in 1994, the North American Free Trade Association, also known as NAFTA, is an agreement signed by the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Its aim is to increase the flow of trade between the three countries.


Greenland
(to Denmark)
Nuuk
Ellesmere Island
Baffin Bay
Baffin Island
ARCTIC OCEAN
Beaufort Sea
ASIA
NUNAVUT
Hudson Bay
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
ALASKA
YUKON
MANITOBA
ONTARIO
CANADA
Anchorage
Bering Sea
ALBERTA
SASKATCHEWAN
Juneau
Winnipeg
MINNESOTA
Edmonton
Saskatoon
Regina
NORTH DAKOTA
Gulf of Alaska
BRITISH COLUMBIA
Calgary
Bismarck
Queen Charlotte Islands
SOUTH DAKOTA
MONTANA
Vancouver
Helena
Honolulu
HAWAII
Hawaiian Islands
PACIFIC OCEAN
Seattle
WYOMING
NEBRASKA
Vancouver Island
WASHINGTON
UNITED STA
IDAHO
KANSAS
Portland
Boise
Denver
Salt Lake City
COLORADO
OREGON
OF AMERI
NEVADA
UTAH
Albuquerque
Las Vegas
NEW MEXICO
San Francisco
ARIZONA
El Paso
Phoenix
CALIFORNIA
Los Angeles
San Diego
Chihuahua
Tijuana
PACIFIC OCEAN

Alaska
The United States bought Alaska from Russia for $7.2 million in 1867.

United States of America
The United States is a country made up of 50 states.

Hawaii
The volcanic Pacific islands became the United States' 50th state in 1959.

FAST FACTS

Total land area:
24,238,000 sq km (9,358,340 sq miles)

Total population:
576 million

Number of countries: 23

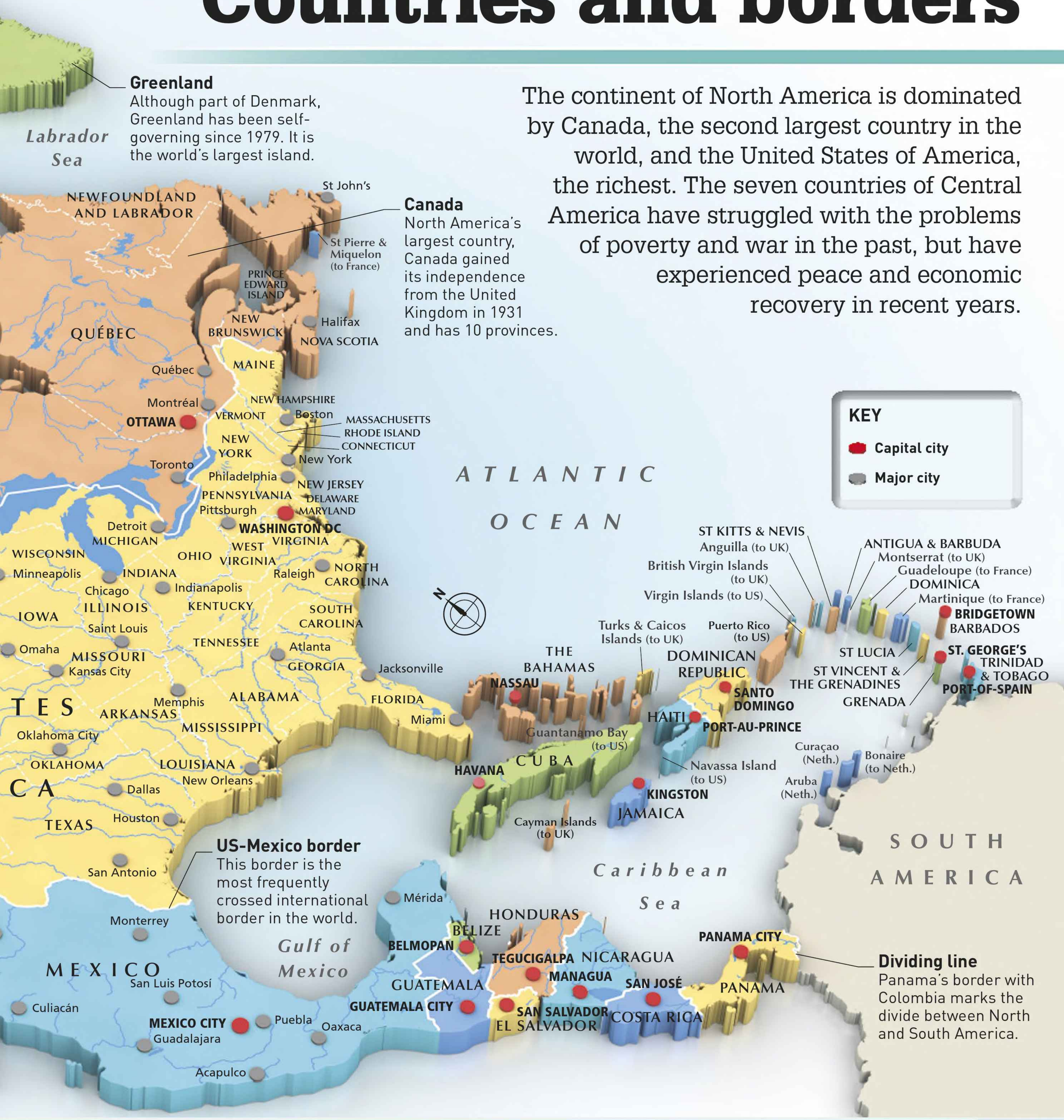
Largest country:
Canada – 9,984,670 sq km (3,855,103 sq miles)

Smallest country:
St Kitts and Nevis – 261 sq km (101 sq miles)

Largest country population:
United States of America – 321 million

Countries and borders

The continent of North America is dominated by Canada, the second largest country in the world, and the United States of America, the richest. The seven countries of Central America have struggled with the problems of poverty and war in the past, but have experienced peace and economic recovery in recent years.



Greenland
Although part of Denmark, Greenland has been self-governing since 1979. It is the world's largest island.

Canada
North America's largest country, Canada gained its independence from the United Kingdom in 1931 and has 10 provinces.

US-Mexico border
This border is the most frequently crossed international border in the world.

Dividing line
Panama's border with Colombia marks the divide between North and South America.

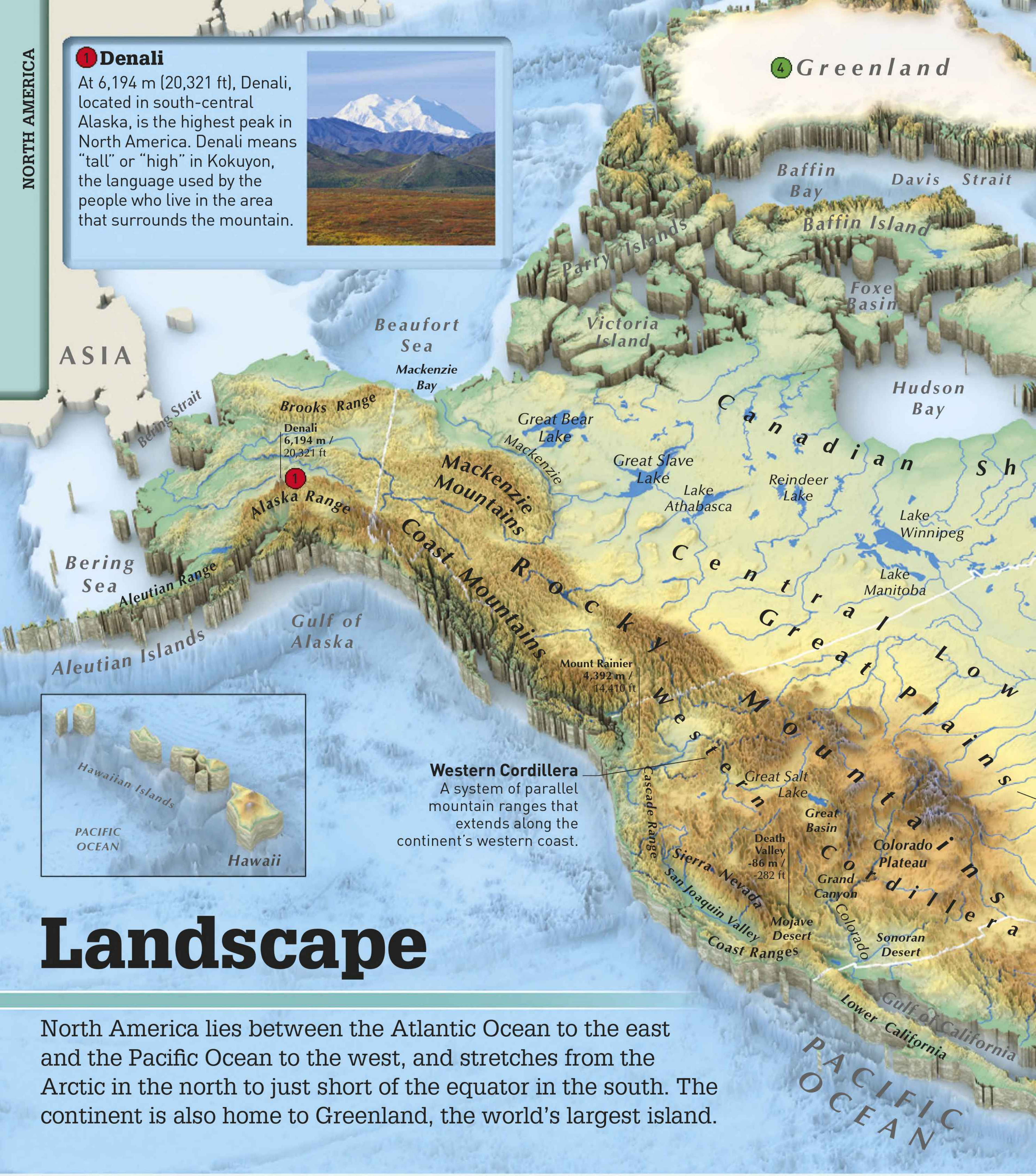
KEY
- ● Capital city
- ● Major city

Labrador Sea
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR
St John's
St Pierre & Miquelon (to France)
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
NEW BRUNSWICK
Halifax
NOVA SCOTIA
QUÉBEC
Québec
MAINE
Montréal
OTTAWA
NEW HAMPSHIRE
VERMONT
Boston
MASSACHUSETTS
RHODE ISLAND
CONNECTICUT
NEW YORK
New York
Toronto
Philadelphia
NEW JERSEY
PENNSYLVANIA
DELAWARE
Pittsburgh
MARYLAND
Detroit
WASHINGTON DC
MICHIGAN
WEST VIRGINIA
VIRGINIA
WISCONSIN
OHIO
Minneapolis
INDIANA
Raleigh
NORTH CAROLINA
Chicago
Indianapolis
ILLINOIS
KENTUCKY
SOUTH CAROLINA
IOWA
Saint Louis
TENNESSEE
Omaha
MISSOURI
Atlanta
Kansas City
GEORGIA
Jacksonville
TES
Memphis
ALABAMA
ARKANSAS
FLORIDA
Miami
MISSISSIPPI
Oklahoma City
OKLAHOMA
LOUISIANA
New Orleans
CA
Dallas
TEXAS
Houston
San Antonio
Monterrey
MEXICO
San Luis Potosí
Culiacán
MEXICO CITY
Puebla
Oaxaca
Guadalajara
Acapulco
Gulf of Mexico
Mérida
BELIZE
BELMOPAN
HONDURAS
TEGUCIGALPA
NICARAGUA
MANAGUA
GUATEMALA
GUATEMALA CITY
SAN SALVADOR
EL SALVADOR
SAN JOSÉ
COSTA RICA
PANAMA CITY
PANAMA
ATLANTIC OCEAN
THE BAHAMAS
NASSAU
Guantanamo Bay (to US)
CUBA
HAVANA
Cayman Islands (to UK)
KINGSTON
JAMAICA
Navassa Island (to US)
HAITI
PORT-AU-PRINCE
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
SANTO DOMINGO
Turks & Caicos Islands (to UK)
Puerto Rico (to US)
Virgin Islands (to US)
British Virgin Islands (to UK)
Anguilla (to UK)
ST KITTS & NEVIS
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
Montserrat (to UK)
Guadeloupe (to France)
DOMINICA
Martinique (to France)
BRIDGETOWN
BARBADOS
ST LUCIA
ST. GEORGE'S
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
ST VINCENT & THE GRENADINES
PORT-OF-SPAIN
GRENADA
Curaçao (Neth.)
Bonaire (to Neth.)
Aruba (Neth.)
Caribbean Sea
SOUTH AMERICA

MOST POPULATED CONTINENT IN THE WORLD.

① Denali

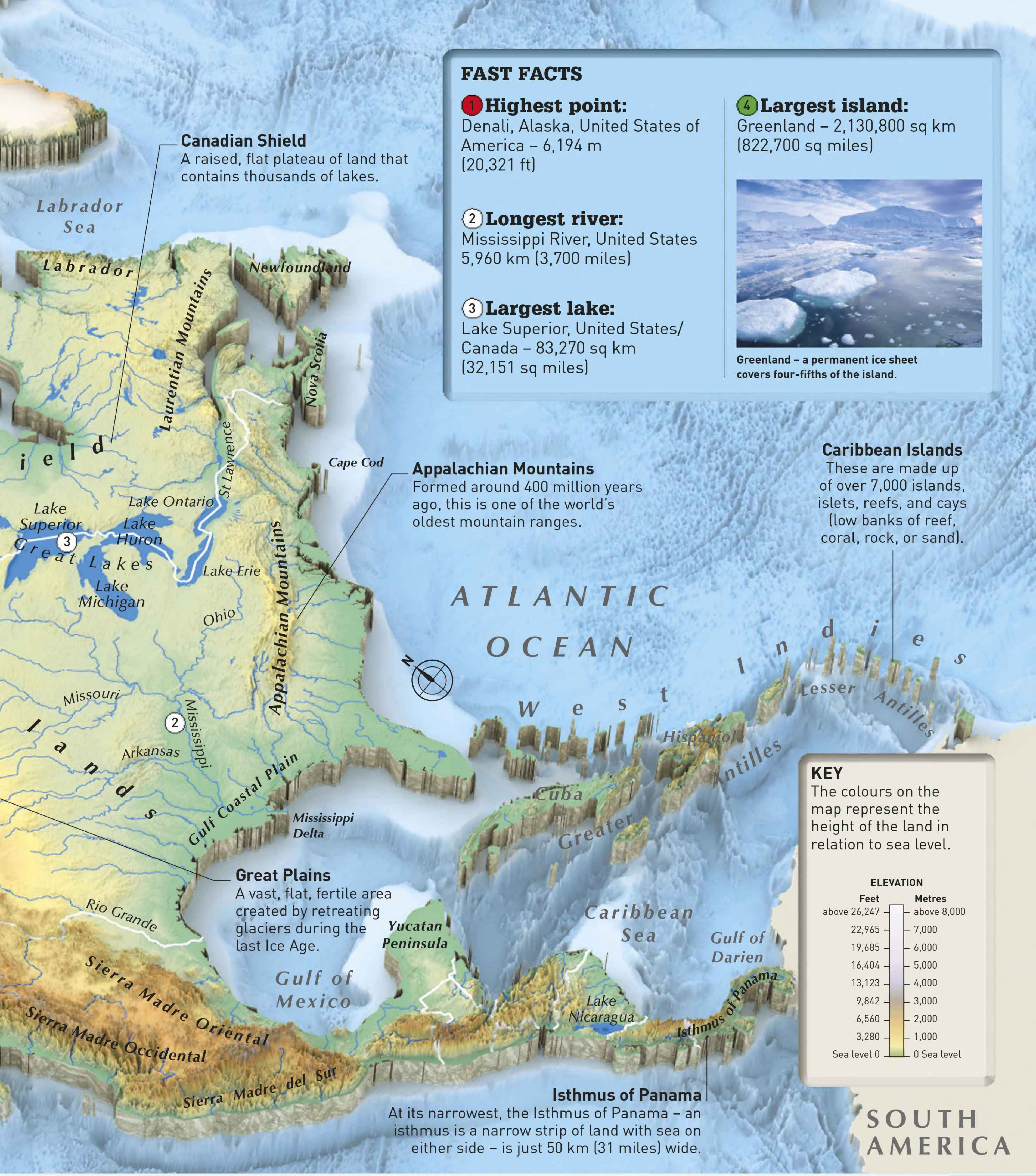
At 6,194 m (20,321 ft), Denali, located in south-central Alaska, is the highest peak in North America. Denali means "tall" or "high" in Kokuyon, the language used by the people who live in the area that surrounds the mountain.


④ Greenland
Baffin Bay
Davis Strait
Baffin Island
Parry Islands
Foxe Basin
Victoria Island
Beaufort Sea
ASIA
Mackenzie Bay
Hudson Bay
Bering Strait
Brooks Range
Denali 6,194 m / 20,321 ft
①
Great Bear Lake
Mackenzie
Great Slave Lake
Canadian Sh
Mackenzie Mountains
Lake Athabasca
Reindeer Lake
Alaska Range
Lake Winnipeg
Bering Sea
Coast Mountains
Central Lowlands
Lake Manitoba
Aleutian Range
Rocky
Great Plains
Gulf of Alaska
Aleutian Islands
Mount Rainier 4,392 m / 14,410 ft
Western
Mountains
Hawaiian Islands
PACIFIC OCEAN
Hawaii
Great Salt Lake
Cascade Range
Great Basin
Colorado Plateau
Death Valley -86 m / -282 ft
Sierra Nevada
Cordillera
San Joaquin Valley
Grand Canyon
Colorado
Mojave Desert
Sonoran Desert
Coast Ranges
Lower California
Gulf of California
PACIFIC OCEAN

Western Cordillera
A system of parallel mountain ranges that extends along the continent's western coast.

Landscape

North America lies between the Atlantic Ocean to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west, and stretches from the Arctic in the north to just short of the equator in the south. The continent is also home to Greenland, the world's largest island.


Labrador Sea
Labrador
Newfoundland
Laurentian Mountains
Nova Scotia
St Lawrence
Cape Cod
Shield
Lake Superior
Lake Ontario
Lake Huron
Great Lakes
Lake Erie
Lake Michigan
Ohio
Appalachian Mountains
Missouri
Mississippi
Arkansas
Interior Lowlands
Gulf Coastal Plain
Mississippi Delta
ATLANTIC OCEAN
West Indies
Lesser Antilles
Hispaniola
Greater Antilles
Cuba
Rio Grande
Yucatan Peninsula
Gulf of Mexico
Caribbean Sea
Gulf of Darien
Lake Nicaragua
Isthmus of Panama
Sierra Madre Oriental
Sierra Madre Occidental
Sierra Madre del Sur
SOUTH AMERICA
1
2
3
4

Canadian Shield
A raised, flat plateau of land that contains thousands of lakes.

FAST FACTS

① Highest point:
Denali, Alaska, United States of America – 6,194 m (20,321 ft)

② Longest river:
Mississippi River, United States 5,960 km (3,700 miles)

③ Largest lake:
Lake Superior, United States/Canada – 83,270 sq km (32,151 sq miles)

④ Largest island:
Greenland – 2,130,800 sq km (822,700 sq miles)

Greenland – a permanent ice sheet covers four-fifths of the island.

Appalachian Mountains
Formed around 400 million years ago, this is one of the world's oldest mountain ranges.

Caribbean Islands
These are made up of over 7,000 islands, islets, reefs, and cays (low banks of reef, coral, rock, or sand).

Great Plains
A vast, flat, fertile area created by retreating glaciers during the last Ice Age.

KEY
The colours on the map represent the height of the land in relation to sea level.

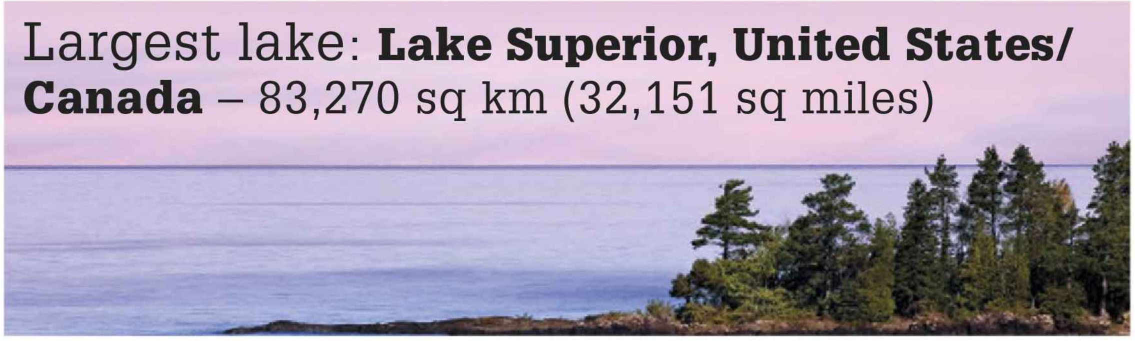
ELEVATION

Feet	Metres
above 26,247	above 8,000
22,965	7,000
19,685	6,000
16,404	5,000
13,123	4,000
9,842	3,000
6,560	2,000
3,280	1,000
Sea level 0	0 Sea level

Isthmus of Panama
At its narrowest, the Isthmus of Panama – an isthmus is a narrow strip of land with sea on either side – is just 50 km (31 miles) wide.

AGO, NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA WERE SEPARATED BY OCEAN.

Fascinating facts



Largest lake: **Lake Superior, United States/ Canada** – 83,270 sq km (32,151 sq miles)

Deepest lake

Great Slave Lake, Canada –
614 m (2,014 ft) deep

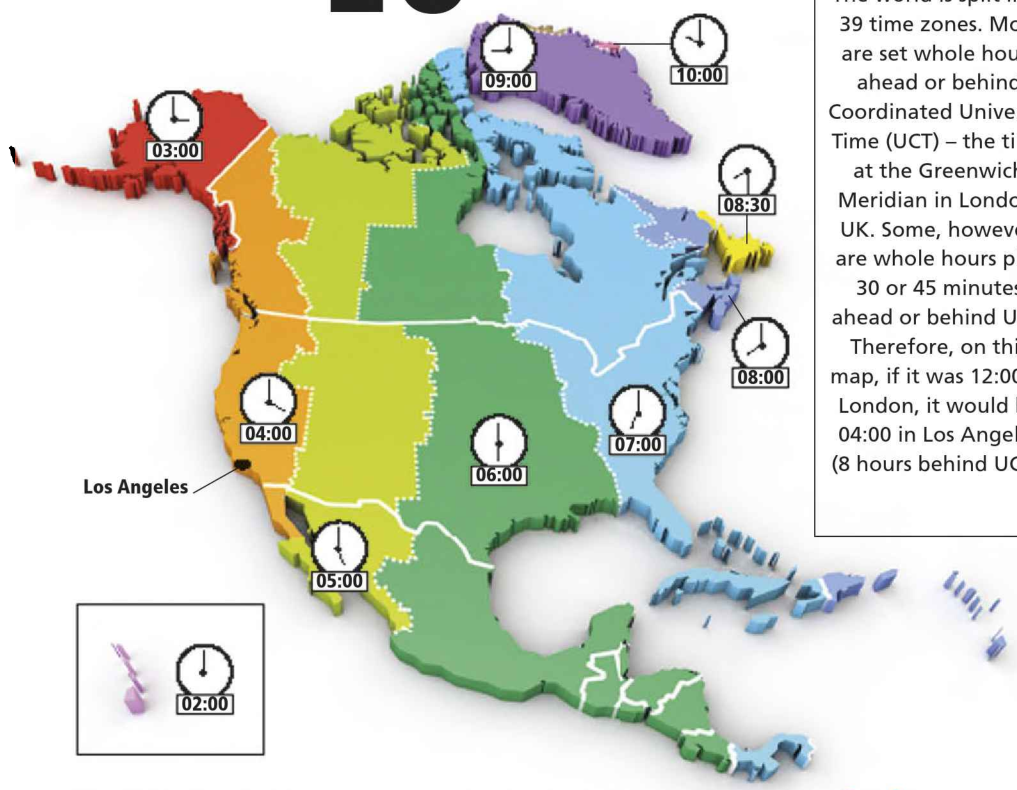
Longest tunnels

Railway tunnel
Mount Macdonald Tunnel, British Columbia, Canada – 14.7 km (9.1 miles)

Metro line
Angrignon–Honoré-Beaugrand (Line 1 Green), Montreal Metro, Canada – 22.1 km (13.7 miles)

Road tunnel
Ted Williams Extension, Boston, United States – 4.2 km (2.6 miles)

Number of time zones 10



12:00

The world is split into 39 time zones. Most are set whole hours ahead or behind Coordinated Universal Time (UCT) – the time at the Greenwich Meridian in London, UK. Some, however, are whole hours plus 30 or 45 minutes ahead or behind UCT. Therefore, on this map, if it was 12:00 in London, it would be 04:00 in Los Angeles (8 hours behind UCT).

Most active volcano

Kilauea, Hawaii, United States

Official languages 7

Amerindian languages ▪ **Creole** ▪ Danish (Greenland) ▪ **Dutch** ▪ English ▪ **French** ▪ Spanish

Busiest airport

Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, Atlanta, US – **101,489,887 passengers per year**

Fastest train

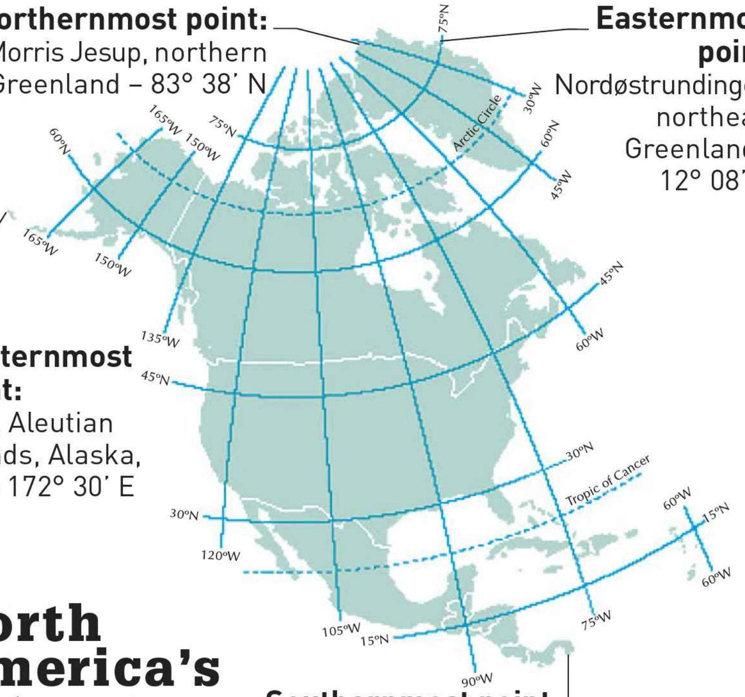
North America's fastest train is the **Acela Express**, in the US, which can reach speeds of up to **240 km/h (150 mph)**

WATERFALLS

● Largest (by volume): **Niagara Falls, US/Canada** – 2,406.9 m³ (85,000 ft³) of water per second

Highest: **Olo'upena Falls, Molokai, Hawaii, US** – 900 m (2,953 ft)

North America's extreme points



75°N
30°W
Arctic Circle
60°N
45°W
165°W
75°N
150°W
60°N
165°W
150°W
135°W
45°N
45°N
60°W
30°N
Tropic of Cancer
60°W
15°N
60°W
30°N
120°W
105°W
15°N
75°W
90°W

Northernmost point: Kap Morris Jesup, northern Greenland – 83° 38′ N

Easternmost point: Nordøstrundingen, northeast Greenland – 12° 08′ W

Westernmost point: Attu, Aleutian Islands, Alaska, US – 172° 30′ E

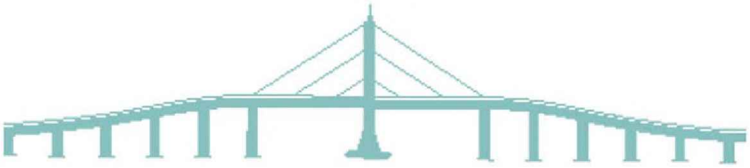
Southernmost point: Peninsula de Azuero, southeast Panama – 7° 15′ N

Longest coastline

Canada – **202,080 km (125,567 miles)**

Longest bridge

Lake Pontchartrain Causeway, Louisiana, USA – **38.442 km (23.89 miles)**

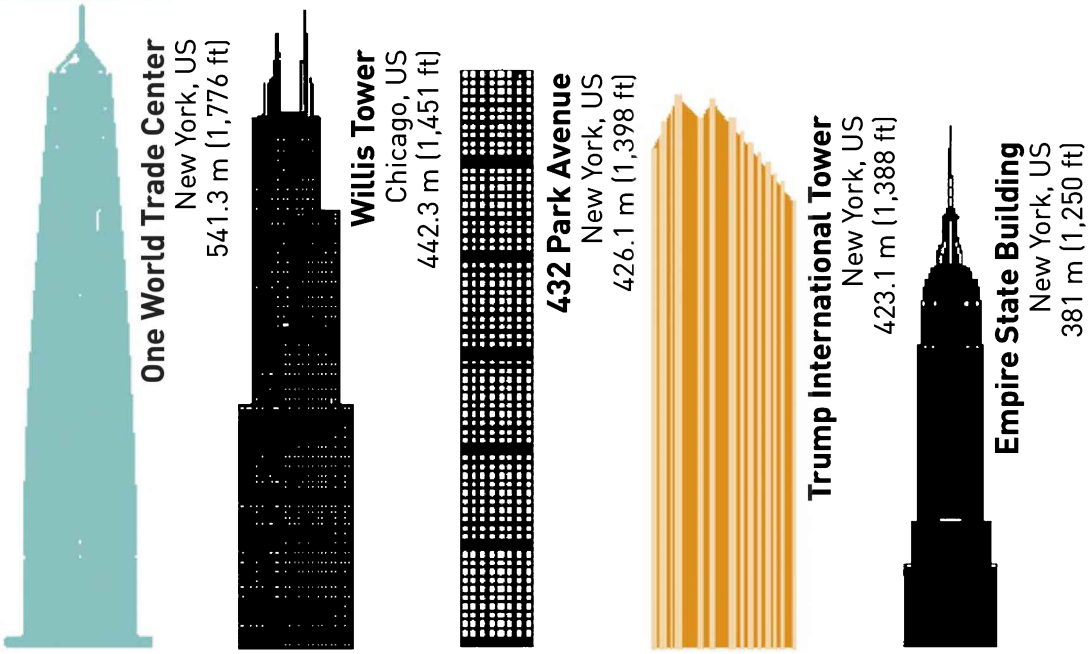


Highest bridge

Royal Gorge Bridge, Colorado, USA – **291 m (955 ft)**

BIGGEST GLACIER
Bering Glacier, Alaska, US

Tallest buildings



One World Trade Center
New York, US
541.3 m (1,776 ft)

Willis Tower
Chicago, US
442.3 m (1,451 ft)

432 Park Avenue
New York, US
426.1 m (1,398 ft)

Trump International Tower
New York, US
423.1 m (1,388 ft)

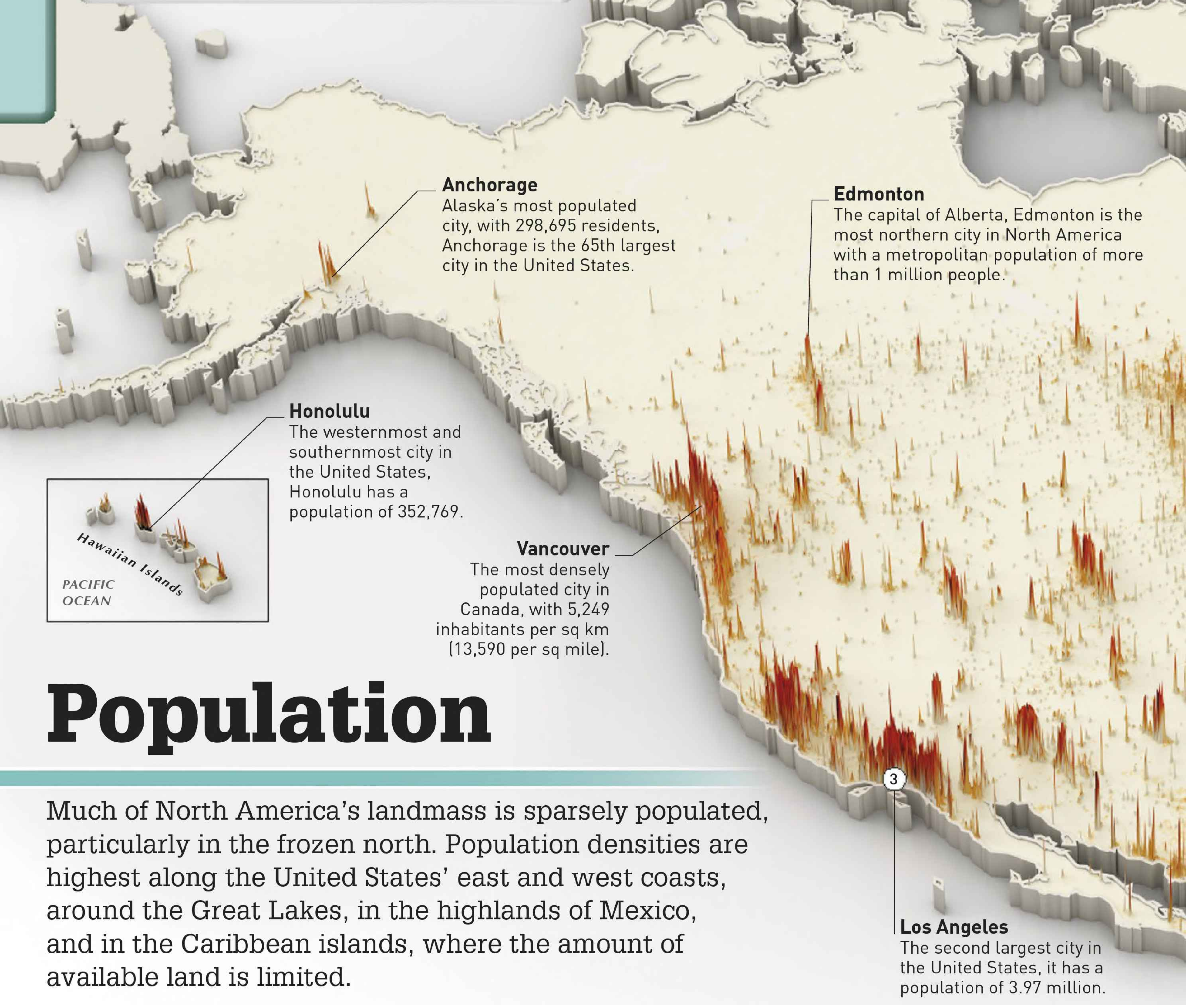
Empire State Building
New York, US
381 m (1,250 ft)

Most visited cities (Visitors per year)

City	Visitors per year
New York, US	12.27 million
Los Angeles, US	5.2 million
Miami, US	4.52 million
Toronto, Canada	4.18 million
Vancouver, Canada	3.76 million

① Mexico City

Mexico's capital is located in the Valley of Mexico and sits at an altitude of 2,240 m (7,350 ft). Continuously inhabited since 1325, it is the oldest city in North America and also the most populous, with 8.85 million inhabitants.



Greenland
The world's largest island has the lowest population density in the world – 0.03 people per sq km (0.08 people per sq mile).

Anchorage
Alaska's most populated city, with 298,695 residents, Anchorage is the 65th largest city in the United States.

Edmonton
The capital of Alberta, Edmonton is the most northern city in North America with a metropolitan population of more than 1 million people.

Honolulu
The westernmost and southernmost city in the United States, Honolulu has a population of 352,769.

Vancouver
The most densely populated city in Canada, with 5,249 inhabitants per sq km (13,590 per sq mile).

Population

Much of North America's landmass is sparsely populated, particularly in the frozen north. Population densities are highest along the United States' east and west coasts, around the Great Lakes, in the highlands of Mexico, and in the Caribbean islands, where the amount of available land is limited.

Los Angeles
The second largest city in the United States, it has a population of 3.97 million.

[redacted]

⑦ Havana

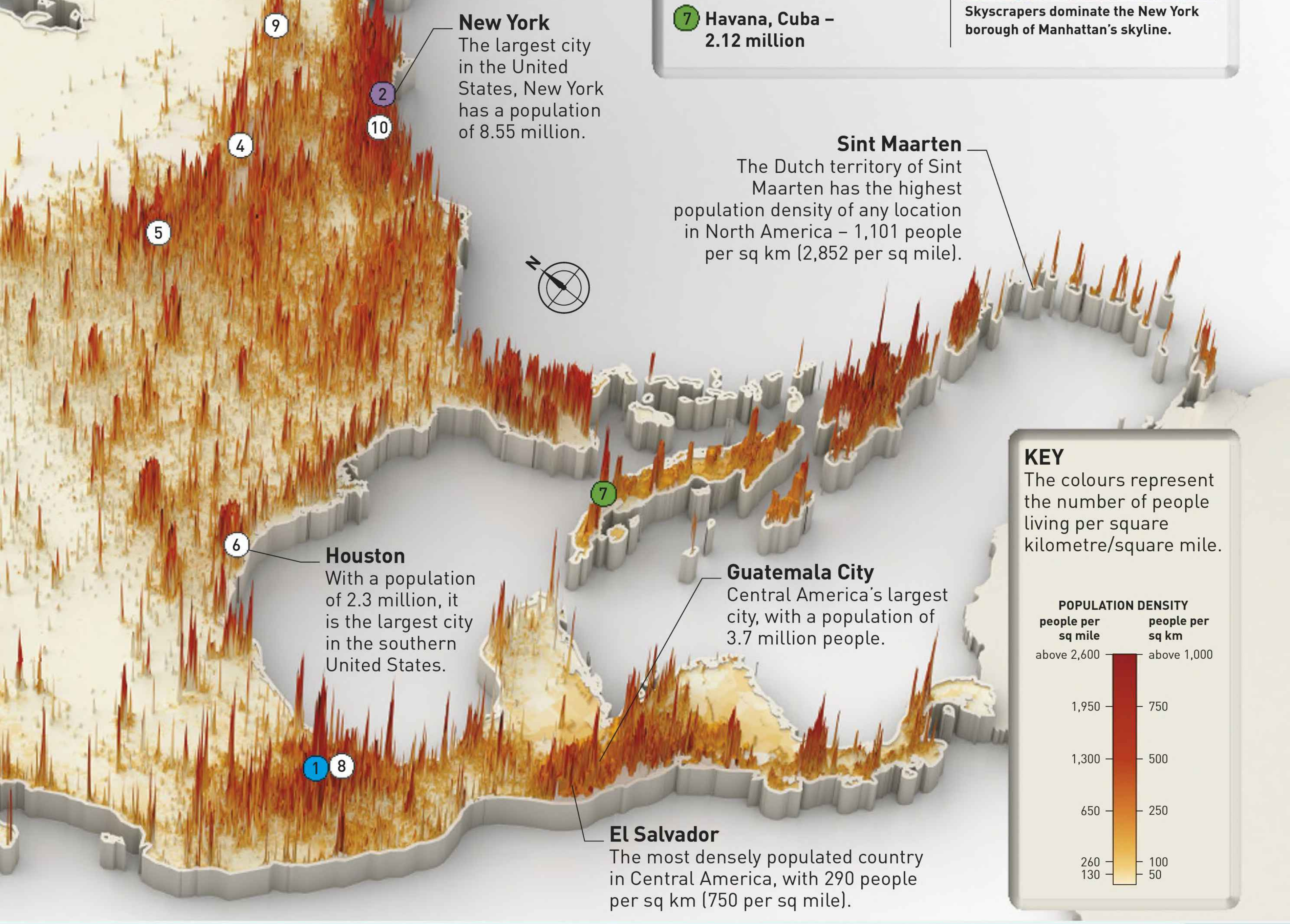
Cuba's capital, Havana is the most populous city in the Caribbean region. It has a population of 2.12 million people.

North America's largest cities

The list below is based on the number of people living within the city's boundary.

- **① Mexico City, Mexico – 8.85 million**
- **② New York, United States – 8.55 million**
- **③ Los Angeles, United States – 3.97 million**
- **④ Toronto, Canada – 2.83 million**
- **⑤ Chicago, United States – 2.72 million**
- **⑥ Houston, United States – 2.3 million**
- **⑦ Havana, Cuba – 2.12 million**
- **⑧ Ecatepec de Morelos, Mexico – 1.76 million**
- **⑨ Montreal, Canada – 1.75 million**
- **⑩ Philadelphia, United States – 1.57 million**

Skyscrapers dominate the New York borough of Manhattan's skyline.



St John's
The largest city in Newfoundland, St John's has a population of 106,000.

New York
The largest city in the United States, New York has a population of 8.55 million.

Sint Maarten
The Dutch territory of Sint Maarten has the highest population density of any location in North America – 1,101 people per sq km (2,852 per sq mile).

Houston
With a population of 2.3 million, it is the largest city in the southern United States.

Guatemala City
Central America's largest city, with a population of 3.7 million people.

El Salvador
The most densely populated country in Central America, with 290 people per sq km (750 per sq mile).

KEY

The colours represent the number of people living per square kilometre/square mile.

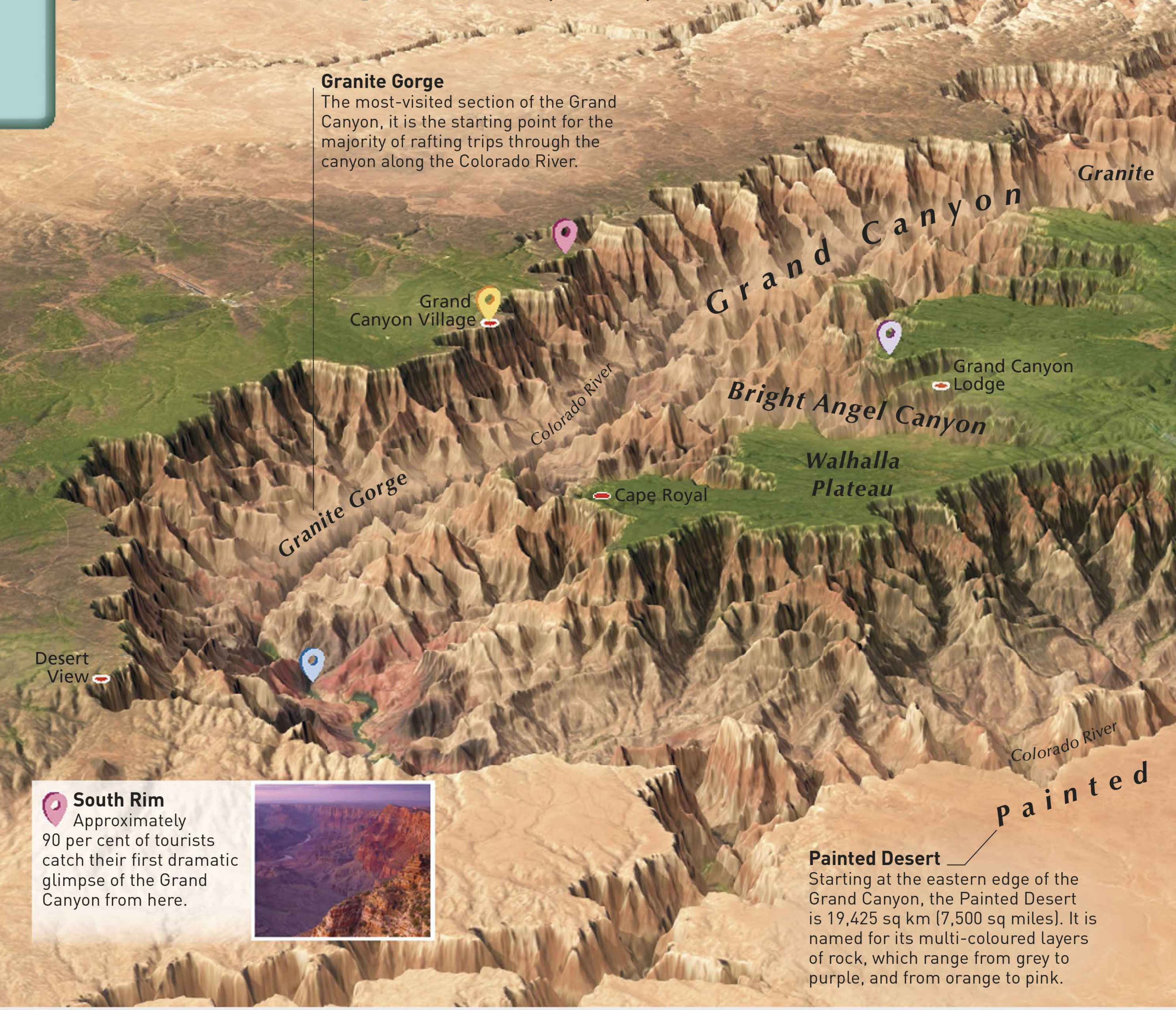
POPULATION DENSITY

people per sq mile	people per sq km
above 2,600	above 1,000
1,950	750
1,300	500
650	250
260	100
130	50

TERRITORIES ARE LOCATED IN THE CARIBBEAN.

The Grand Canyon

Formed over millions of years by the flow of the Colorado River, the Grand Canyon is a steep-sided canyon in the state of Arizona, United States. It is 446 km (277 miles) long, 29 km (18 miles) wide at its widest point, and reaches a depth of 1,857 m (6,093 ft).

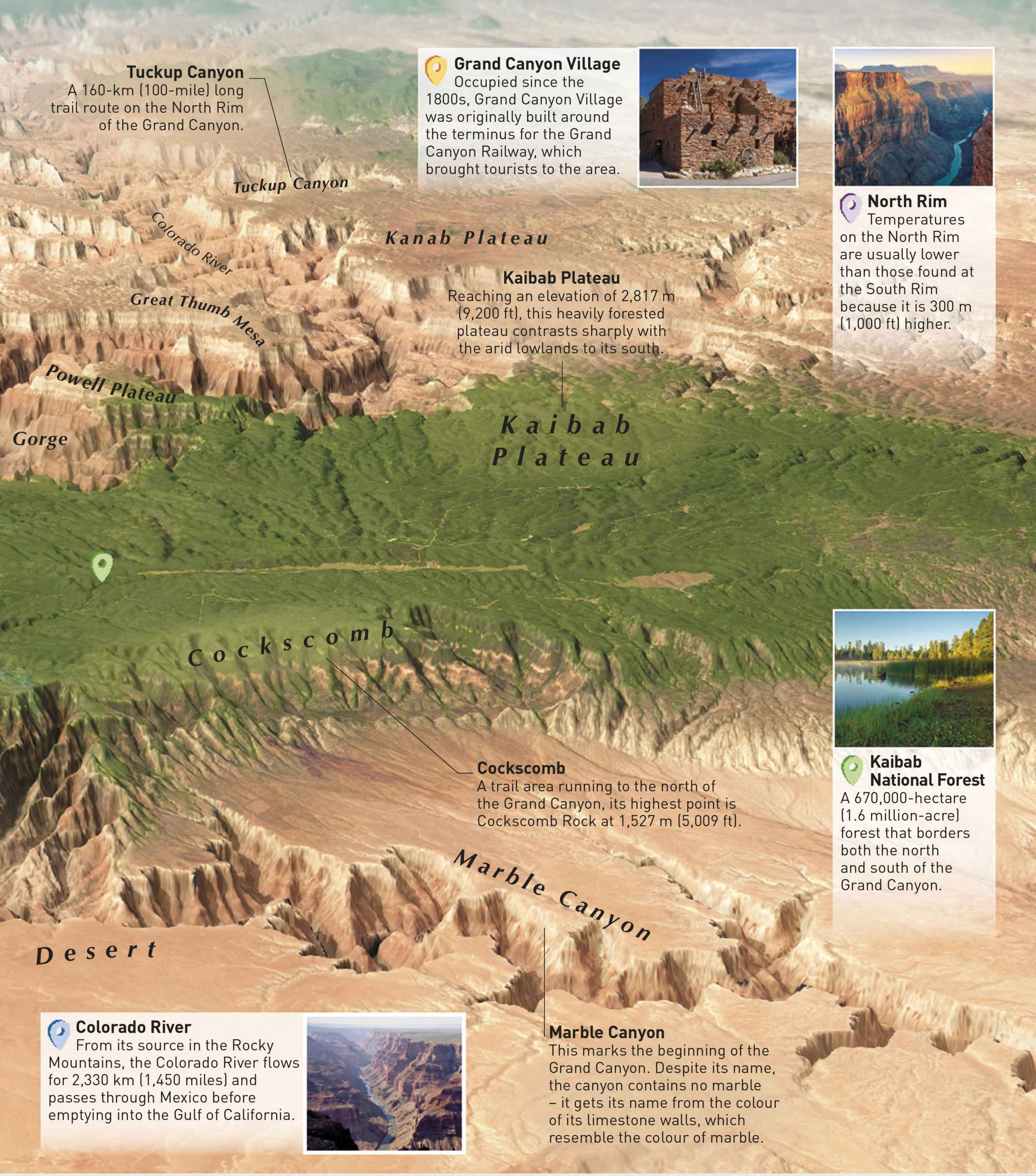

Granite
Grand Canyon
Grand Canyon Village
Colorado River
Grand Canyon Lodge
Bright Angel Canyon
Walhalla Plateau
Cape Royal
Granite Gorge
Desert View
Colorado River
Painted

Granite Gorge
The most-visited section of the Grand Canyon, it is the starting point for the majority of rafting trips through the canyon along the Colorado River.

South Rim
Approximately 90 per cent of tourists catch their first dramatic glimpse of the Grand Canyon from here.

Painted Desert
Starting at the eastern edge of the Grand Canyon, the Painted Desert is 19,425 sq km (7,500 sq miles). It is named for its multi-coloured layers of rock, which range from grey to purple, and from orange to pink.

THE FIRST EUROPEAN TO SEE THE GRAND CANYON WAS GARCIA


Tuckup Canyon
Colorado River
Kanab Plateau
Great Thumb Mesa
Powell Plateau
Gorge
Kaibab Plateau
Cockscomb
Marble Canyon
Desert

Tuckup Canyon
A 160-km (100-mile) long trail route on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon.

Grand Canyon Village
Occupied since the 1800s, Grand Canyon Village was originally built around the terminus for the Grand Canyon Railway, which brought tourists to the area.

North Rim
Temperatures on the North Rim are usually lower than those found at the South Rim because it is 300 m (1,000 ft) higher.

Kaibab Plateau
Reaching an elevation of 2,817 m (9,200 ft), this heavily forested plateau contrasts sharply with the arid lowlands to its south.

Cockscomb
A trail area running to the north of the Grand Canyon, its highest point is Cockscomb Rock at 1,527 m (5,009 ft).

Kaibab National Forest
A 670,000-hectare (1.6 million-acre) forest that borders both the north and south of the Grand Canyon.

Colorado River
From its source in the Rocky Mountains, the Colorado River flows for 2,330 km (1,450 miles) and passes through Mexico before emptying into the Gulf of California.

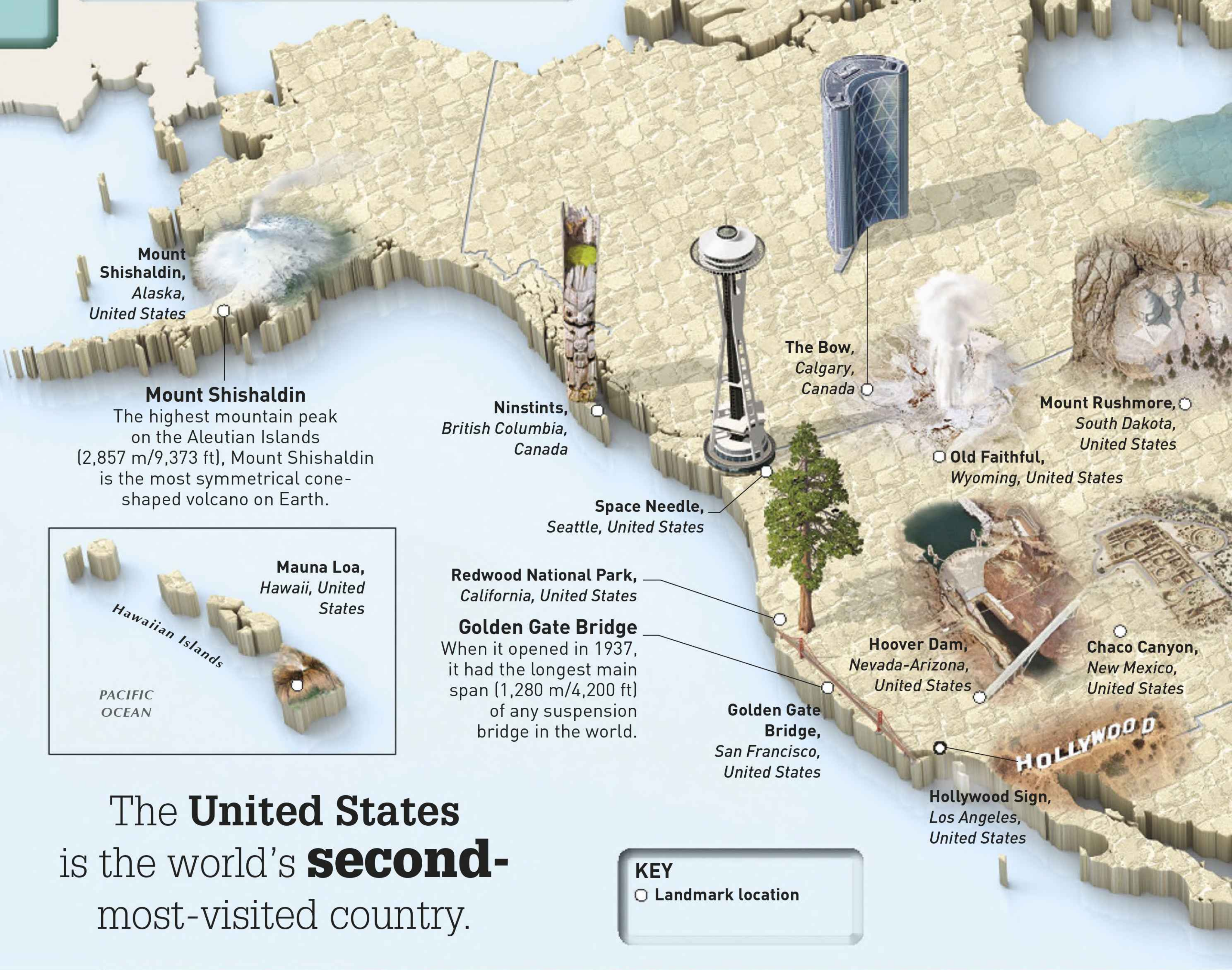
Marble Canyon
This marks the beginning of the Grand Canyon. Despite its name, the canyon contains no marble – it gets its name from the colour of its limestone walls, which resemble the colour of marble.

LOPEZ DE CARDENAS, FROM SPAIN. HE ARRIVED THERE IN 1540.

○ Chichen Itza

The largest and most famous Mayan site, Chichen Itza, Mexico, was a major urban centre between 750 and 1200 CE. The highlight of the site is the El Castillo pyramid, whose four sides are made up of 365 steps (one for each day of the solar year).

Illulisat Icefjord
Located 350 km (220 miles) north of the Arctic Circle, the area's many icebergs have made Illulisat a popular tourist destination.


Illulisat Icefjord, *Greenland*
Mount Shishaldin, *Alaska, United States*
The Bow, *Calgary, Canada*
Mount Rushmore, *South Dakota, United States*
Ninstints, *British Columbia, Canada*
Old Faithful, *Wyoming, United States*
Space Needle, *Seattle, United States*
Mauna Loa, *Hawaii, United States*
Hawaiian Islands
PACIFIC OCEAN
Redwood National Park, *California, United States*
Hoover Dam, *Nevada-Arizona, United States*
Chaco Canyon, *New Mexico, United States*
Golden Gate Bridge, *San Francisco, United States*
HOLLYWOOD
Hollywood Sign, *Los Angeles, United States*

Mount Shishaldin
The highest mountain peak on the Aleutian Islands (2,857 m/9,373 ft), Mount Shishaldin is the most symmetrical cone-shaped volcano on Earth.

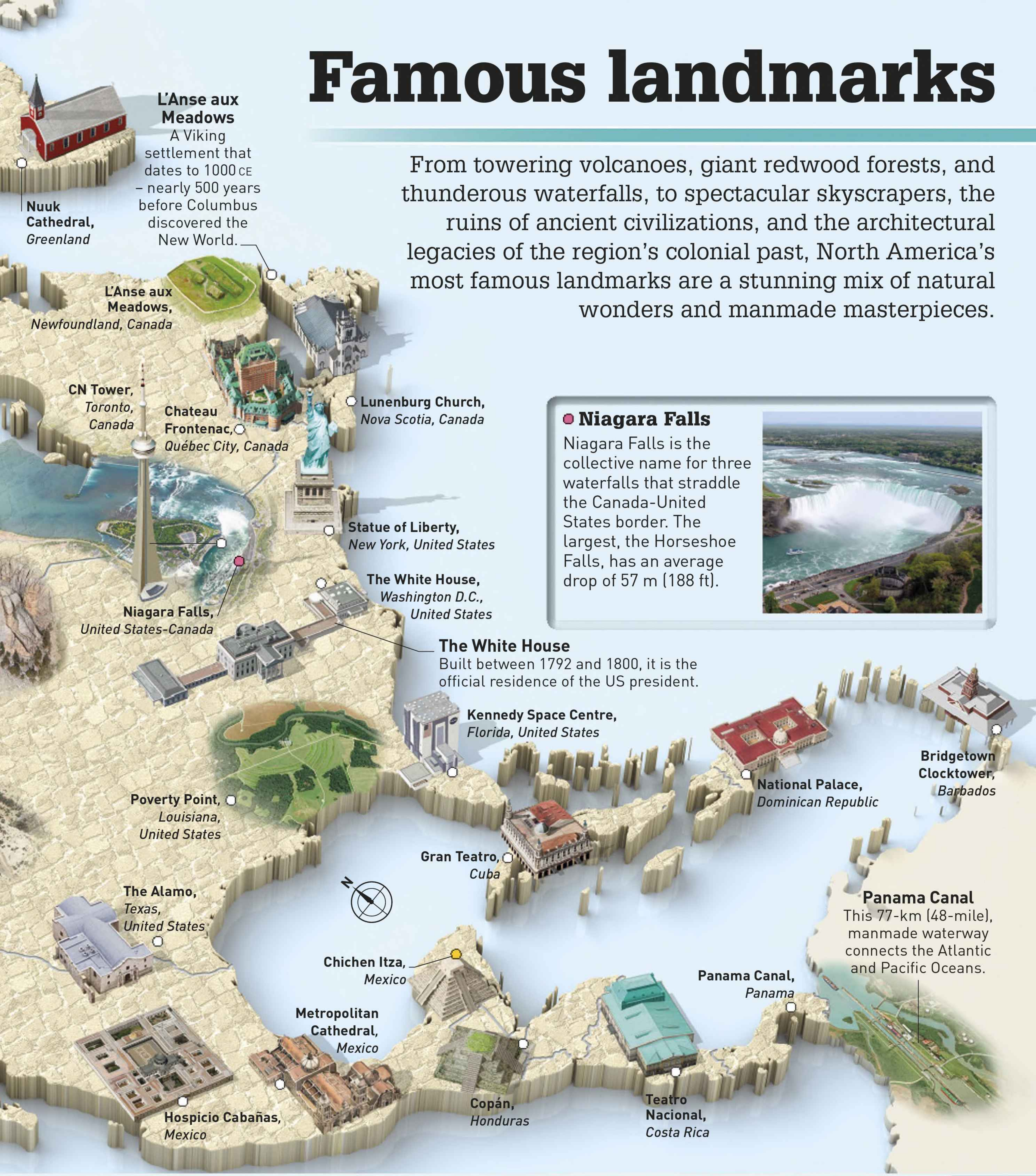
Golden Gate Bridge
When it opened in 1937, it had the longest main span (1,280 m/4,200 ft) of any suspension bridge in the world.

The **United States** is the world's **second-**most-visited country.

KEY
○ Landmark location

Famous landmarks

From towering volcanoes, giant redwood forests, and thunderous waterfalls, to spectacular skyscrapers, the ruins of ancient civilizations, and the architectural legacies of the region's colonial past, North America's most famous landmarks are a stunning mix of natural wonders and manmade masterpieces.


Nuuk Cathedral, *Greenland*
L'Anse aux Meadows, *Newfoundland, Canada*
CN Tower, *Toronto, Canada*
Chateau Frontenac, *Québec City, Canada*
Lunenburg Church, *Nova Scotia, Canada*
Statue of Liberty, *New York, United States*
The White House, *Washington D.C., United States*
Niagara Falls, *United States-Canada*
Kennedy Space Centre, *Florida, United States*
Poverty Point, *Louisiana, United States*
National Palace, *Dominican Republic*
Bridgetown Clocktower, *Barbados*
Gran Teatro, *Cuba*
The Alamo, *Texas, United States*
N
Chichen Itza, *Mexico*
Panama Canal, *Panama*
Metropolitan Cathedral, *Mexico*
Hospicio Cabañas, *Mexico*
Copán, *Honduras*
Teatro Nacional, *Costa Rica*

L'Anse aux Meadows
A Viking settlement that dates to 1000 CE – nearly 500 years before Columbus discovered the New World.

Niagara Falls
Niagara Falls is the collective name for three waterfalls that straddle the Canada-United States border. The largest, the Horseshoe Falls, has an average drop of 57 m (188 ft).

The White House
Built between 1792 and 1800, it is the official residence of the US president.

Panama Canal
This 77-km (48-mile), manmade waterway connects the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

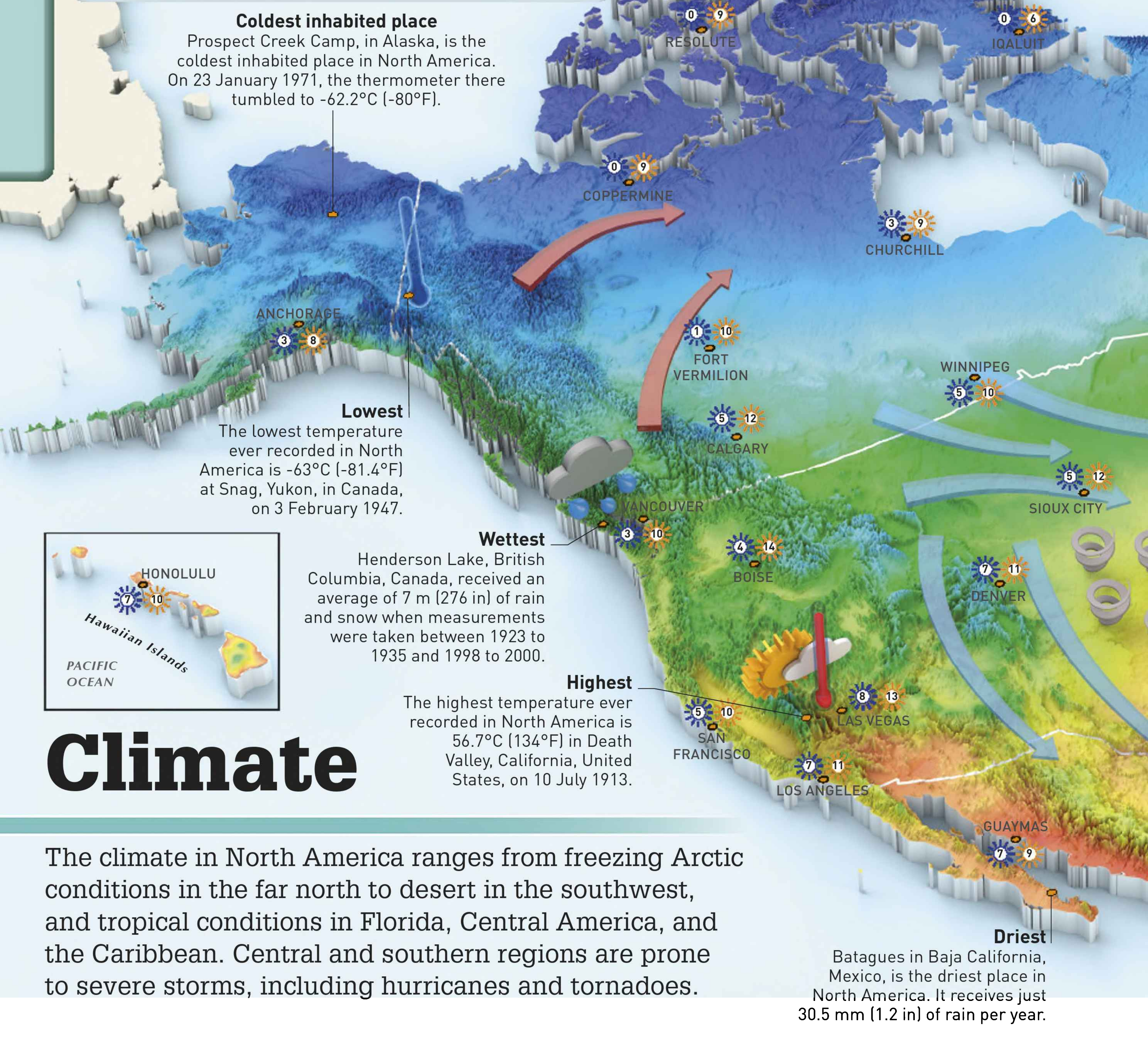
VISITED TOURIST ATTRACTION, WITH 85 MILLION ANNUAL VISITORS.

Climate

The climate in North America ranges from freezing Arctic conditions in the far north to desert in the southwest, and tropical conditions in Florida, Central America, and the Caribbean. Central and southern regions are prone to severe storms, including hurricanes and tornadoes.

Tornado Alley

Tornado Alley is a nickname given to an area in the southern United States that experiences a high number of tornadoes. A tornado is a column of air that spins at high speed while maintaining contact with both the ground and the storm clouds above.


EISMITTE 0 10
RESOLUTE 0 9
IQALUIT 0 6
COPPERMINE 0 9
CHURCHILL 3 9
ANCHORAGE 3 8
FORT VERMILION 1 10
WINNIPEG 5 10
CALGARY 5 12
SIOUX CITY 5 12
VANCOUVER 3 10
BOISE 4 14
DENVER 7 11
LAS VEGAS 8 13
SAN FRANCISCO 5 10
LOS ANGELES 7 11
GUAYMAS 7 9
HONOLULU 7 10
Hawaiian Islands
PACIFIC OCEAN

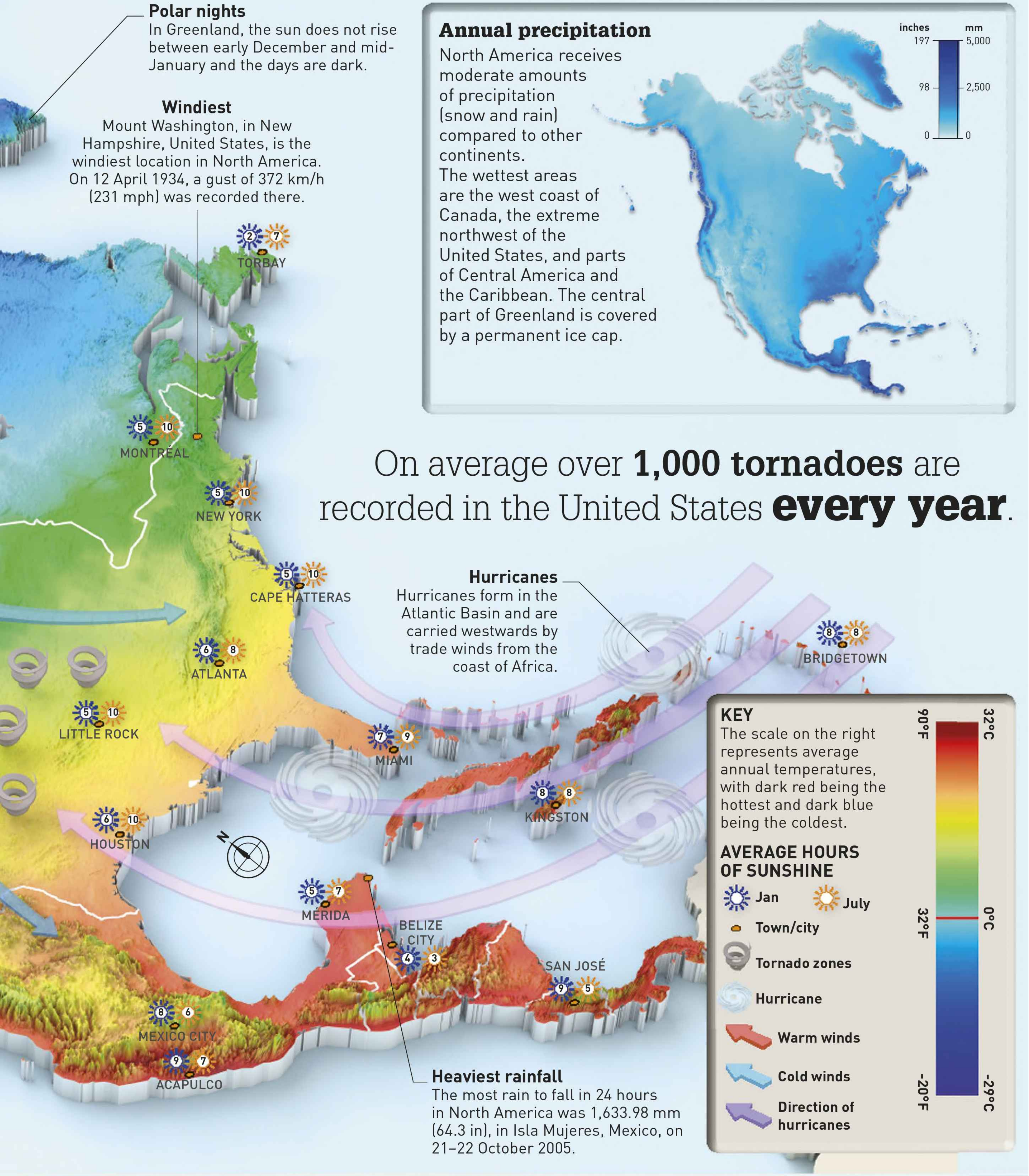
Coldest inhabited place
Prospect Creek Camp, in Alaska, is the coldest inhabited place in North America. On 23 January 1971, the thermometer there tumbled to -62.2°C (-80°F).

Lowest
The lowest temperature ever recorded in North America is -63°C (-81.4°F) at Snag, Yukon, in Canada, on 3 February 1947.

Wettest
Henderson Lake, British Columbia, Canada, received an average of 7 m (276 in) of rain and snow when measurements were taken between 1923 to 1935 and 1998 to 2000.

Highest
The highest temperature ever recorded in North America is 56.7°C (134°F) in Death Valley, California, United States, on 10 July 1913.

Driest
Batagues in Baja California, Mexico, is the driest place in North America. It receives just 30.5 mm (1.2 in) of rain per year.


inches
mm
197
5,000
98
2,500
0
0
2 7 TORBAY
5 10 MONTRÉAL
5 10 NEW YORK
5 10 CAPE HATTERAS
6 8 ATLANTA
5 10 LITTLE ROCK
7 9 MIAMI
8 8 BRIDGETOWN
8 8 KINGSTON
6 10 HOUSTON
N
5 7 MÉRIDA
BELIZE CITY
4 3
SAN JOSÉ
9 5
8 6 MEXICO CITY
9 7 ACAPULCO
90°F
32°C
32°F
0°C
-20°F
-29°C

Polar nights
In Greenland, the sun does not rise between early December and mid-January and the days are dark.

Windiest
Mount Washington, in New Hampshire, United States, is the windiest location in North America. On 12 April 1934, a gust of 372 km/h (231 mph) was recorded there.

Annual precipitation

North America receives moderate amounts of precipitation (snow and rain) compared to other continents. The wettest areas are the west coast of Canada, the extreme northwest of the United States, and parts of Central America and the Caribbean. The central part of Greenland is covered by a permanent ice cap.

On average over **1,000 tornadoes** are recorded in the United States **every year**.

Hurricanes
Hurricanes form in the Atlantic Basin and are carried westwards by trade winds from the coast of Africa.

Heaviest rainfall
The most rain to fall in 24 hours in North America was 1,633.98 mm (64.3 in), in Isla Mujeres, Mexico, on 21–22 October 2005.

KEY
The scale on the right represents average annual temperatures, with dark red being the hottest and dark blue being the coldest.

AVERAGE HOURS OF SUNSHINE

Jan **July**

Town/city

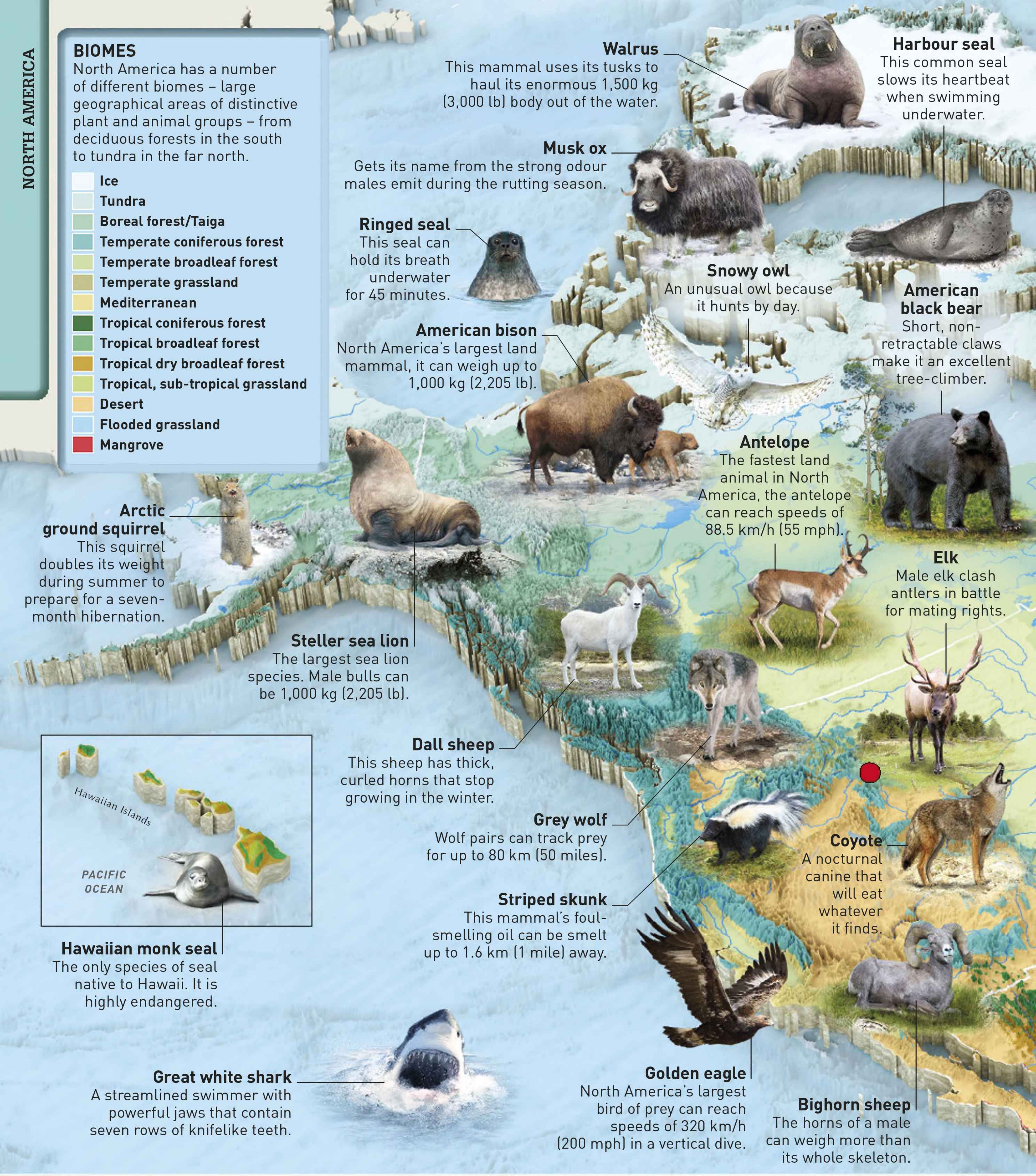
Tornado zones

Hurricane

Warm winds

Cold winds

Direction of hurricanes



BIOMES

North America has a number of different biomes – large geographical areas of distinctive plant and animal groups – from deciduous forests in the south to tundra in the far north.

- Ice
- Tundra
- Boreal forest/Taiga
- Temperate coniferous forest
- Temperate broadleaf forest
- Temperate grassland
- Mediterranean
- Tropical coniferous forest
- Tropical broadleaf forest
- Tropical dry broadleaf forest
- Tropical, sub-tropical grassland
- Desert
- Flooded grassland
- Mangrove

Walrus
This mammal uses its tusks to haul its enormous 1,500 kg (3,000 lb) body out of the water.

Harbour seal
This common seal slows its heartbeat when swimming underwater.

Musk ox
Gets its name from the strong odour males emit during the rutting season.

Ringed seal
This seal can hold its breath underwater for 45 minutes.

Snowy owl
An unusual owl because it hunts by day.

American black bear
Short, non-retractable claws make it an excellent tree-climber.

American bison
North America's largest land mammal, it can weigh up to 1,000 kg (2,205 lb).

Antelope
The fastest land animal in North America, the antelope can reach speeds of 88.5 km/h (55 mph).

Arctic ground squirrel
This squirrel doubles its weight during summer to prepare for a seven-month hibernation.

Elk
Male elk clash antlers in battle for mating rights.

Steller sea lion
The largest sea lion species. Male bulls can be 1,000 kg (2,205 lb).

Dall sheep
This sheep has thick, curled horns that stop growing in the winter.

Grey wolf
Wolf pairs can track prey for up to 80 km (50 miles).

Coyote
A nocturnal canine that will eat whatever it finds.

Striped skunk
This mammal's foul-smelling oil can be smelt up to 1.6 km (1 mile) away.

Hawaiian monk seal
The only species of seal native to Hawaii. It is highly endangered.

Great white shark
A streamlined swimmer with powerful jaws that contain seven rows of knifelike teeth.

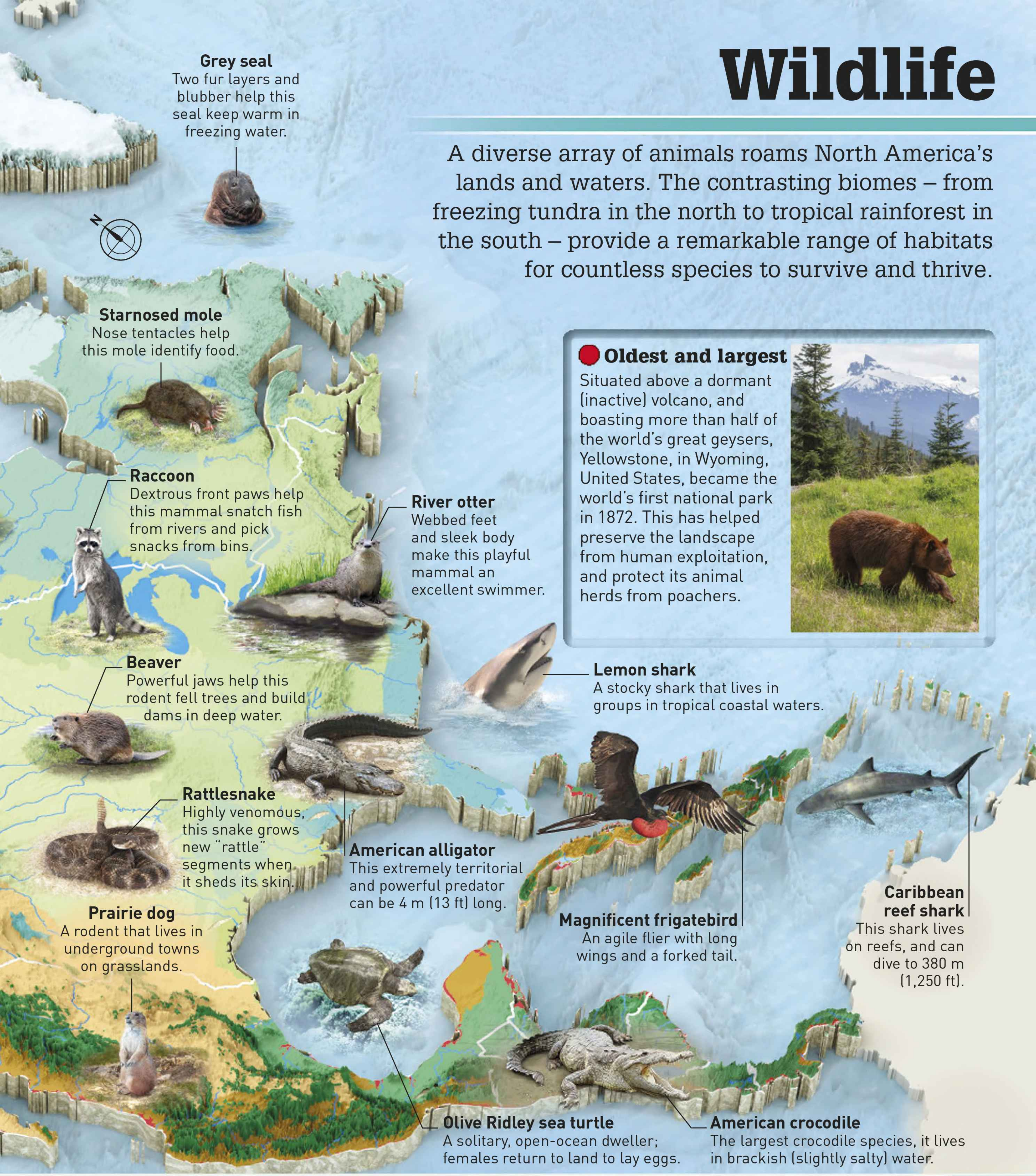
Golden eagle
North America's largest bird of prey can reach speeds of 320 km/h (200 mph) in a vertical dive.

Bighorn sheep
The horns of a male can weigh more than its whole skeleton.

[redacted]

Wildlife

A diverse array of animals roams North America's lands and waters. The contrasting biomes – from freezing tundra in the north to tropical rainforest in the south – provide a remarkable range of habitats for countless species to survive and thrive.



Grey seal
Two fur layers and blubber help this seal keep warm in freezing water.

Starnosed mole
Nose tentacles help this mole identify food.

Raccoon
Dextrous front paws help this mammal snatch fish from rivers and pick snacks from bins.

River otter
Webbed feet and sleek body make this playful mammal an excellent swimmer.

Beaver
Powerful jaws help this rodent fell trees and build dams in deep water.

Lemon shark
A stocky shark that lives in groups in tropical coastal waters.

Rattlesnake
Highly venomous, this snake grows new "rattle" segments when it sheds its skin.

American alligator
This extremely territorial and powerful predator can be 4 m (13 ft) long.

Prairie dog
A rodent that lives in underground towns on grasslands.

Magnificent frigatebird
An agile flier with long wings and a forked tail.

Caribbean reef shark
This shark lives on reefs, and can dive to 380 m (1,250 ft).

Olive Ridley sea turtle
A solitary, open-ocean dweller; females return to land to lay eggs.

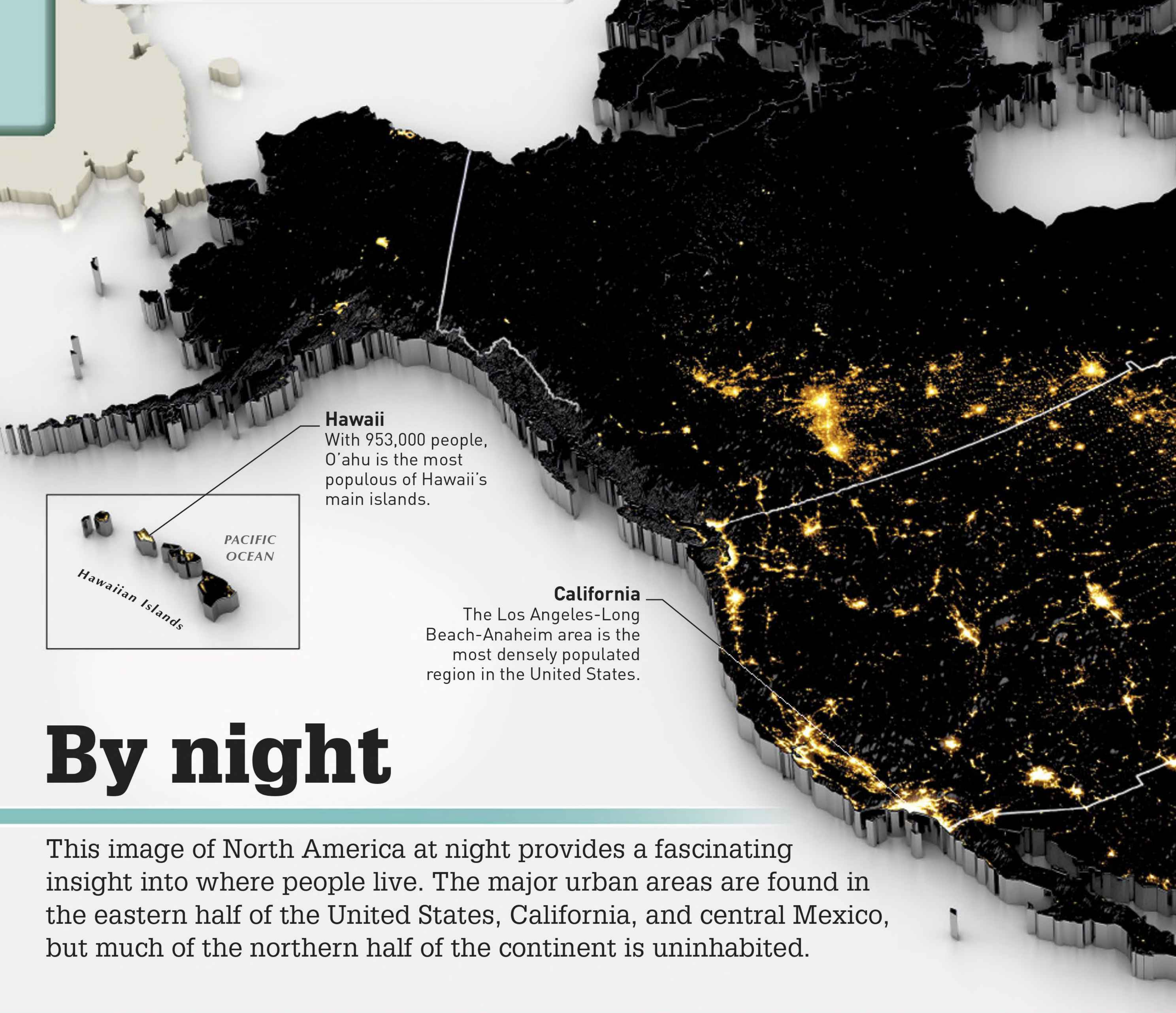
American crocodile
The largest crocodile species, it lives in brackish (slightly salty) water.

● Oldest and largest

Situated above a dormant (inactive) volcano, and boasting more than half of the world's great geysers, Yellowstone, in Wyoming, United States, became the world's first national park in 1872. This has helped preserve the landscape from human exploitation, and protect its animal herds from poachers.

Canada

Despite its vast size (only the Russian Federation is larger), almost 90 per cent of Canada is uninhabitable. The cold temperatures in the country's frozen north are too extreme for humans to live there.

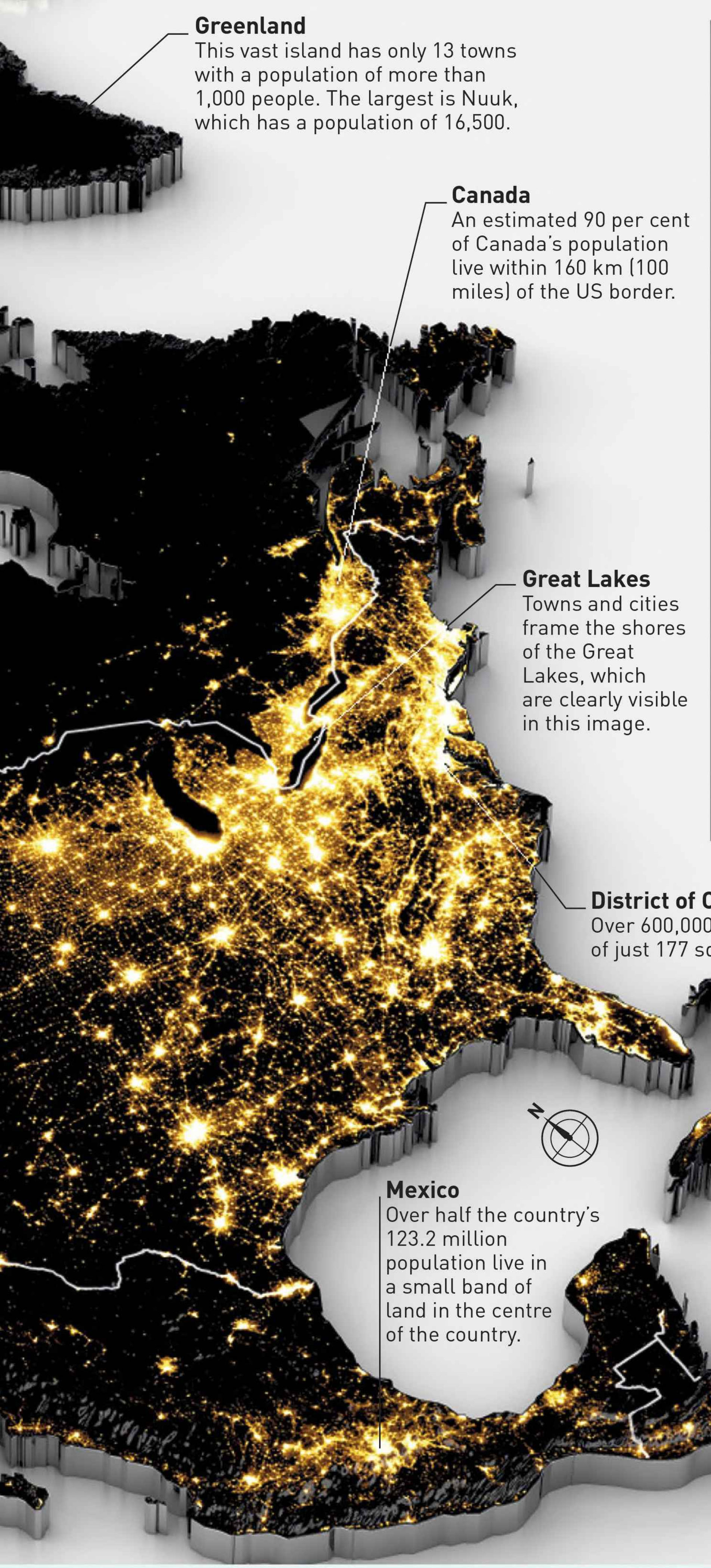


Hawaii
With 953,000 people, O'ahu is the most populous of Hawaii's main islands.

California
The Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim area is the most densely populated region in the United States.

By night

This image of North America at night provides a fascinating insight into where people live. The major urban areas are found in the eastern half of the United States, California, and central Mexico, but much of the northern half of the continent is uninhabited.



Greenland
This vast island has only 13 towns with a population of more than 1,000 people. The largest is Nuuk, which has a population of 16,500.

Canada
An estimated 90 per cent of Canada's population live within 160 km (100 miles) of the US border.

Caribbean islands

Although some of North America's most densely populated territories can be found in the Caribbean region, some of the islands are also home to ever-growing rural populations.

● **Cayman Islands –** Along with Anguilla, Bermuda, and Sint Maarten, this is one of four North American territories with an entirely urban population.

● **Haiti –** A consequence of the devastating 2010 earthquake, the number of people living in towns increased by 3.78 per cent between 2010 and 2015.

● **Montserrat –** Only 9 per cent of this volcanic island's population live in an urban environment.

● **Trinidad and Tobago –** Fewer people live in towns here than anywhere else in North America.

Great Lakes
Towns and cities frame the shores of the Great Lakes, which are clearly visible in this image.

District of Columbia
Over 600,000 people live in an area of just 177 sq km (68 sq miles).

Mexico
Over half the country's 123.2 million population live in a small band of land in the centre of the country.

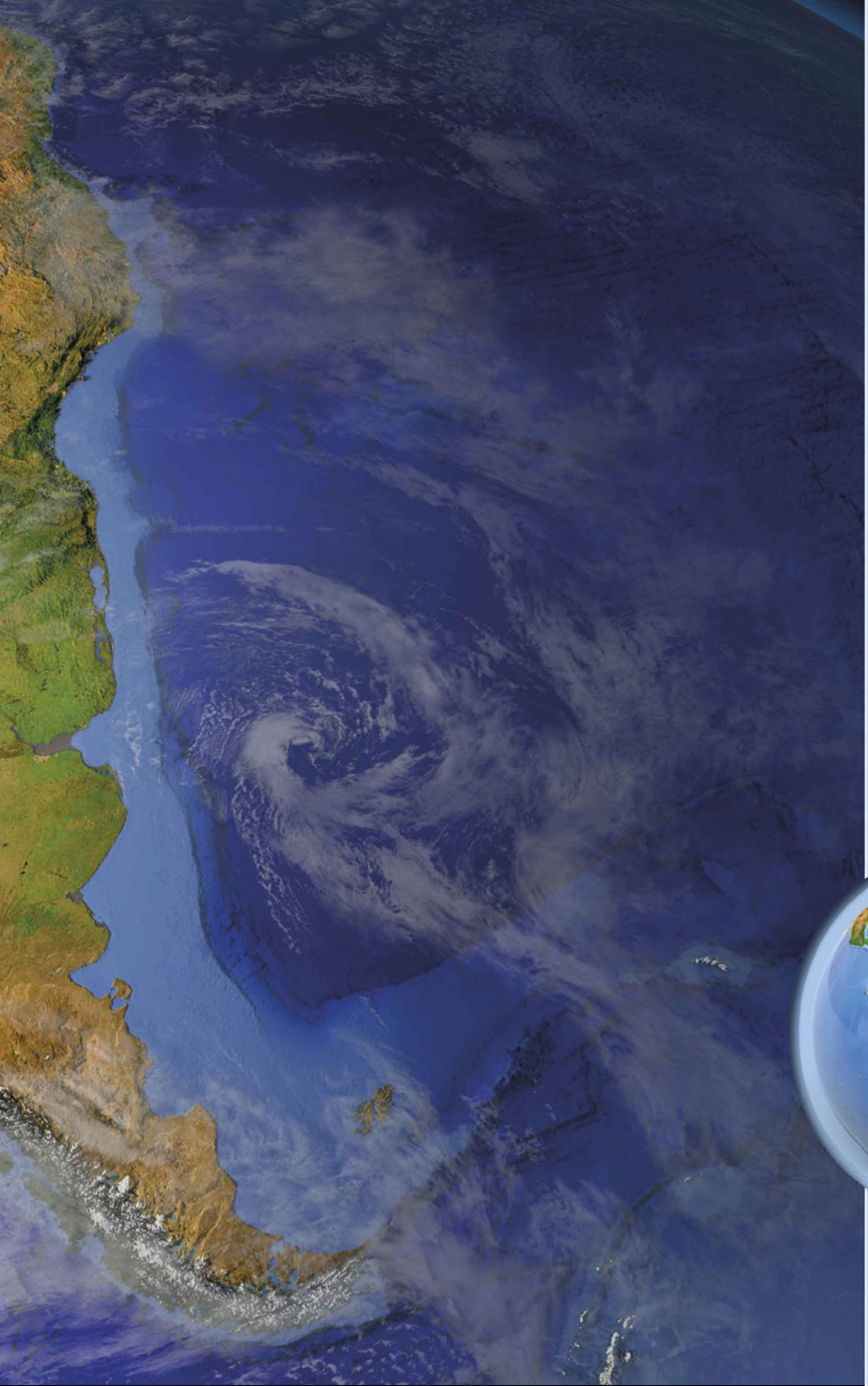
KEY

Illuminated areas on the map reflect urban, built-up areas and roads, in contrast to rural regions.

■	**Rural area**
▨	**Urban area**

Costa Rica
Has an urban population of 76.8 per cent – the highest in Central America.

MAINE HAS THE LOWEST URBAN POPULATION (38.7 PER CENT).

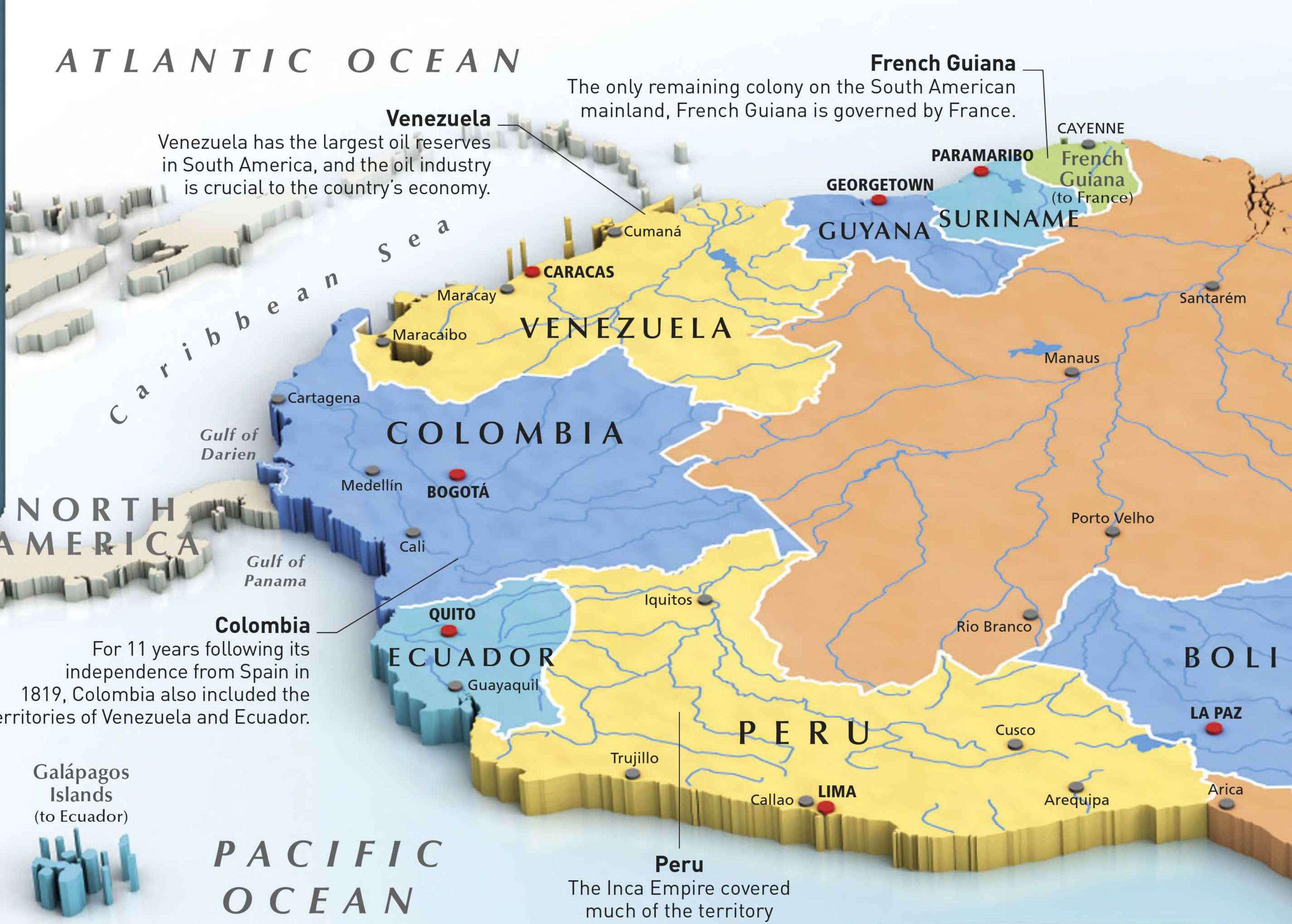


SOUTH AMERICA

Mountains and forests
The Andes mountain range and the mighty Amazon rainforest dominate South America, which runs from the Caribbean Sea in the north to the Tierra del Fuego in the south.

Countries and borders

For centuries, most of South America was under Spanish or Portuguese rule. Although the majority of countries became independent in the early 19th century, the languages and cultures of their past rulers have shaped the lives of people living there today.


ATLANTIC OCEAN
Caribbean Sea
CAYENNE
PARAMARIBO
French Guiana (to France)
GEORGETOWN
SURINAME
GUYANA
Cumaná
CARACAS
Maracay
Maracaibo
VENEZUELA
Santarém
Manaus
Cartagena
Gulf of Darien
COLOMBIA
Medellín
BOGOTÁ
NORTH AMERICA
Cali
Gulf of Panama
Porto Velho
QUITO
Iquitos
ECUADOR
Guayaquil
Rio Branco
BOLI
LA PAZ
PERU
Cusco
Trujillo
Callao
LIMA
Arequipa
Arica
Galápagos Islands (to Ecuador)
PACIFIC OCEAN

French Guiana
The only remaining colony on the South American mainland, French Guiana is governed by France.

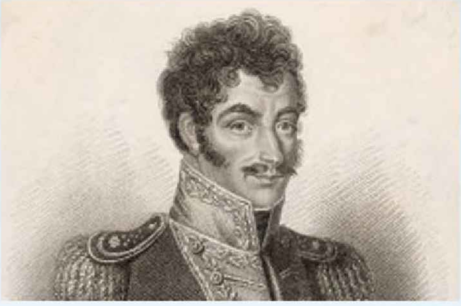
Venezuela
Venezuela has the largest oil reserves in South America, and the oil industry is crucial to the country's economy.

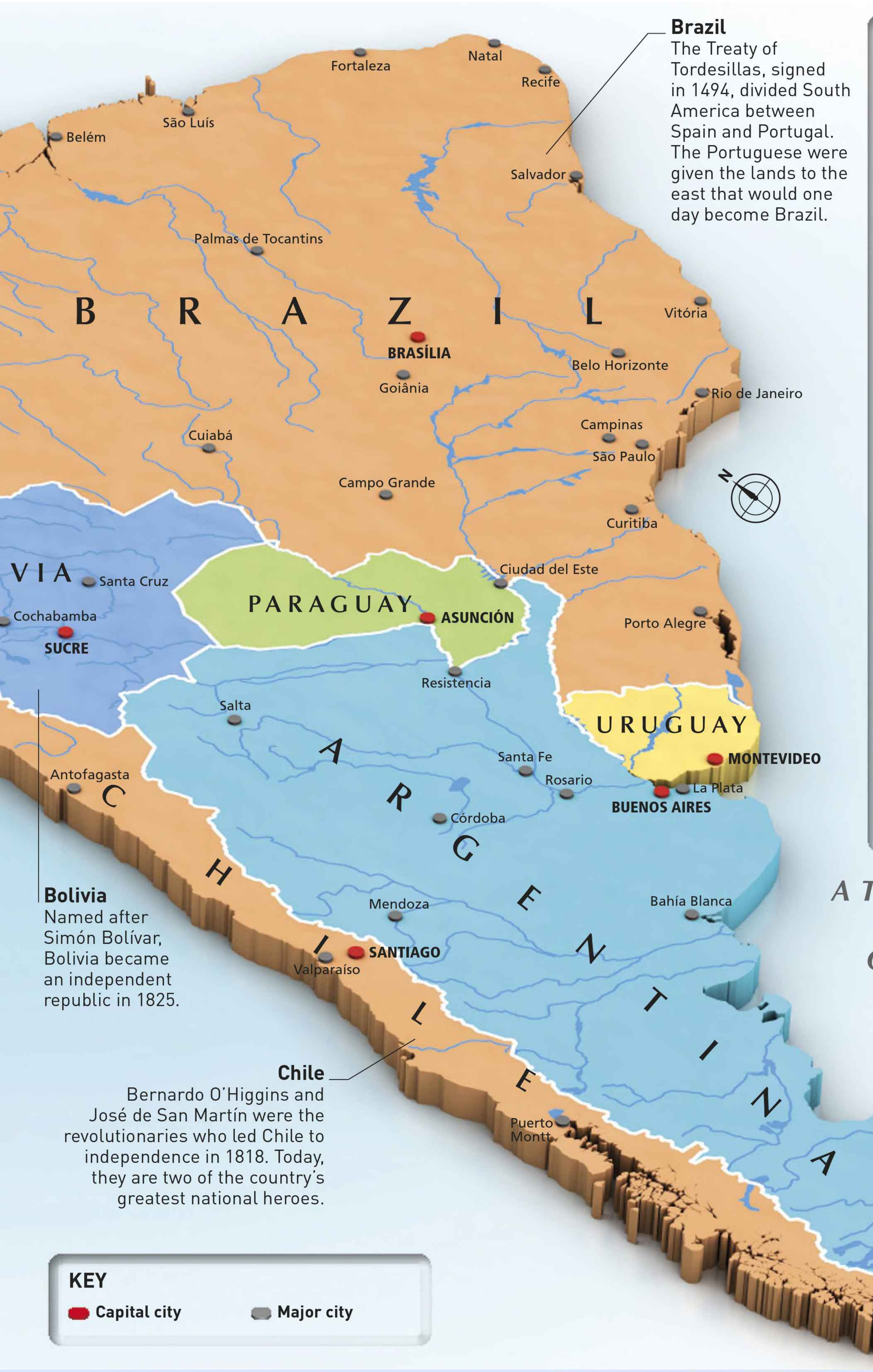
Colombia
For 11 years following its independence from Spain in 1819, Colombia also included the territories of Venezuela and Ecuador.

Peru
The Inca Empire covered much of the territory of modern Peru. It was overthrown by Spanish soldiers led by Francisco Pizarro in 1533.

Simón Bolívar

Popularly known as "the Liberator", Simón Bolívar (1783–1830) was a Venezuelan military leader who played a major role in the continent's uprising against the Spanish Empire. His ideas – and dream of creating a united continent – continue to inspire many South Americans even today.




Fortaleza
Natal
Recife
São Luís
Belém
Salvador
Palmas de Tocantins
BRAZIL
Vitória
BRASÍLIA
Belo Horizonte
Goiânia
Rio de Janeiro
Campinas
Cuiabá
São Paulo
Campo Grande
N
Curitiba
Ciudad del Este
VIA
Santa Cruz
PARAGUAY
ASUNCIÓN
Cochabamba
SUCRE
Porto Alegre
Resistencia
Salta
URUGUAY
MONTEVIDEO
Santa Fe
Rosario
La Plata
BUENOS AIRES
Antofagasta
Córdoba
ARGENTINA
CHILE
Bahía Blanca
ATLANTIC OCEAN
Mendoza
SANTIAGO
Valparaíso
STANLEY
Puerto Montt
Falkland Islands (to UK)
Punta Arenas

Brazil
The Treaty of Tordesillas, signed in 1494, divided South America between Spain and Portugal. The Portuguese were given the lands to the east that would one day become Brazil.

FAST FACTS

Total land area:
17,840,000 sq km (6,890,000 sq miles)

Total population:
410 million

Number of countries: 12

Largest country:
Brazil – 8,515,770 sq km (3,287,957 sq miles)

Smallest country:
Suriname – 163,820 sq km (63,251 sq miles)

Largest country population:
Brazil – 204.3 million

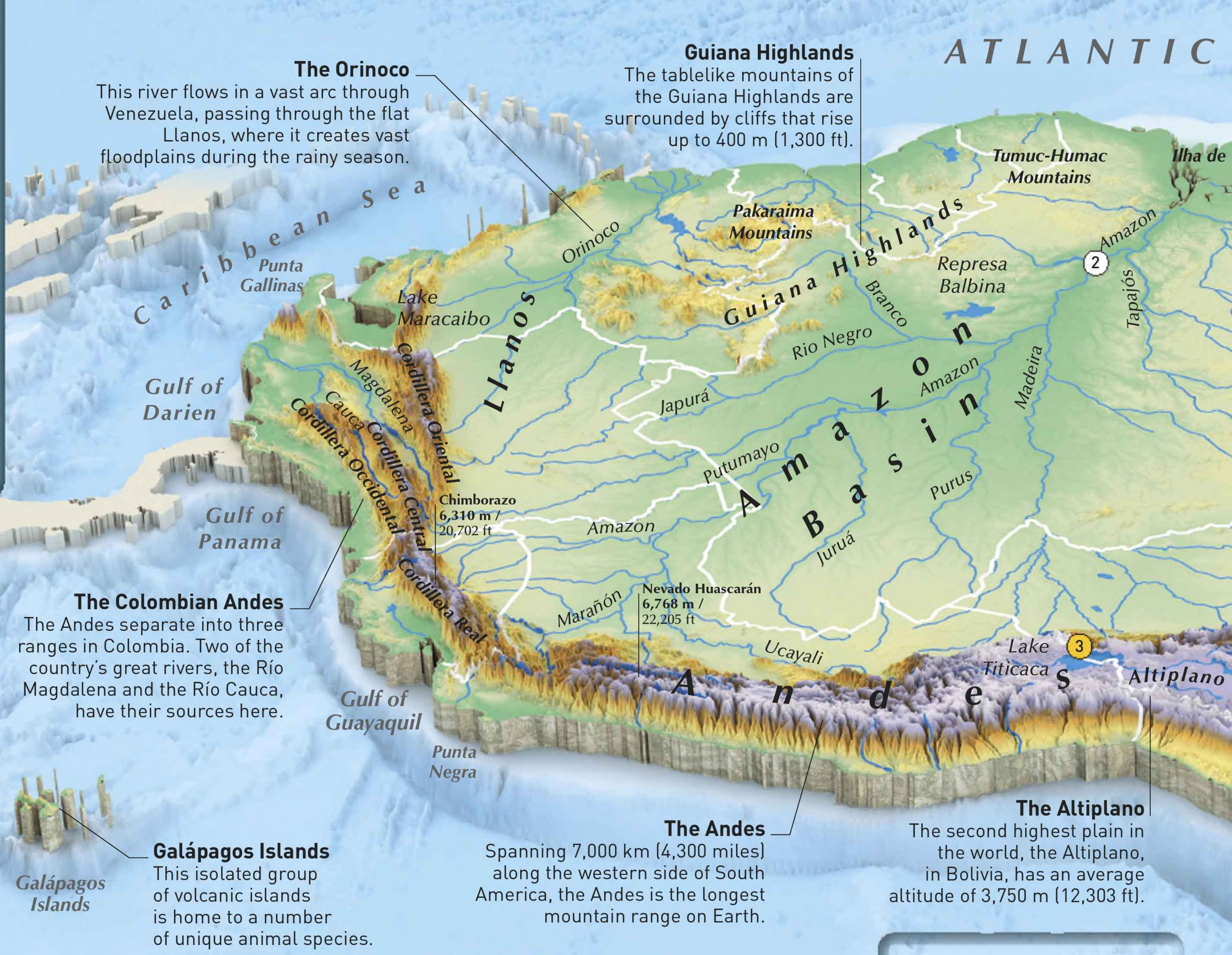
The Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro is home to the world's biggest carnival.

Bolivia
Named after Simón Bolívar, Bolivia became an independent republic in 1825.

Chile
Bernardo O'Higgins and José de San Martín were the revolutionaries who led Chile to independence in 1818. Today, they are two of the country's greatest national heroes.

Falkland Islands
The islands are a self-governing British colony. In 1982, Argentina invaded, leading to a brief, but bloody, war.

KEY
🟥 **Capital city** ● **Major city**


ATLANTIC
Caribbean Sea
Punta Gallinas
Lake Maracaibo
Gulf of Darien
Gulf of Panama
Gulf of Guayaquil
Punta Negra
Galápagos Islands
Llanos
Orinoco
Pakaraima Mountains
Guiana Highlands
Tumuc-Humac Mountains
Ilha de
Amazon
2
Represa Balbina
Tapajós
Branco
Rio Negro
Amazon
Madeira
Japurá
Putumayo
Amazon Basin
Purus
Juruá
Amazon
Magdalena
Cauca
Cordillera Oriental
Cordillera Central
Cordillera Occidental
Cordillera Real
Chimborazo 6,310 m / 20,702 ft
Nevado Huascarán 6,768 m / 22,205 ft
Marañón
Ucayali
Lake Titicaca
3
Altiplano
Andes
PACIFIC OCEAN

The Orinoco
This river flows in a vast arc through Venezuela, passing through the flat Llanos, where it creates vast floodplains during the rainy season.

Guiana Highlands
The tablelike mountains of the Guiana Highlands are surrounded by cliffs that rise up to 400 m (1,300 ft).

The Colombian Andes
The Andes separate into three ranges in Colombia. Two of the country's great rivers, the Río Magdalena and the Río Cauca, have their sources here.

Galápagos Islands
This isolated group of volcanic islands is home to a number of unique animal species.

The Andes
Spanning 7,000 km (4,300 miles) along the western side of South America, the Andes is the longest mountain range on Earth.

The Altiplano
The second highest plain in the world, the Altiplano, in Bolivia, has an average altitude of 3,750 m (12,303 ft).

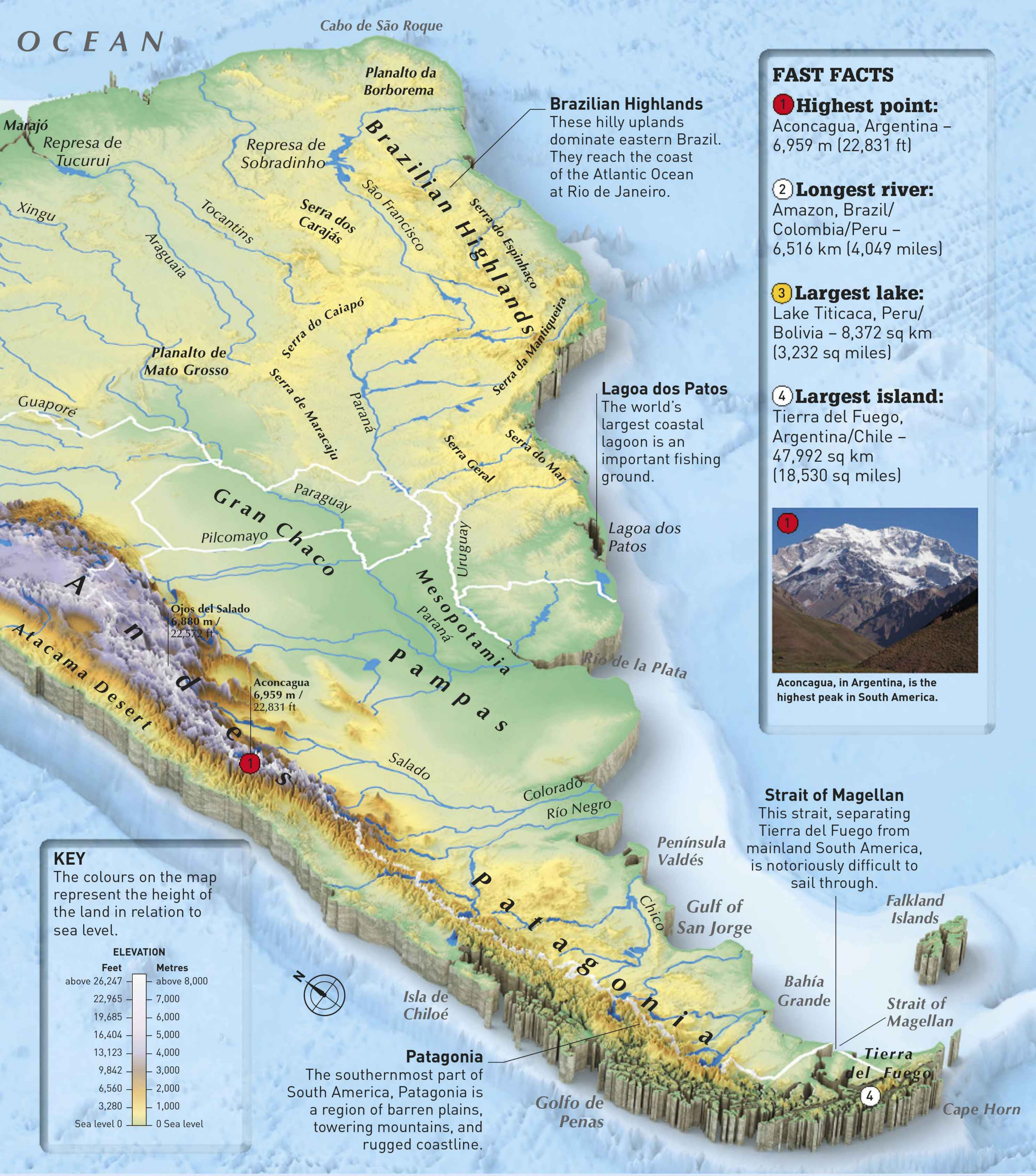
Landscape

South America boasts an extraordinary range of landscapes, from the tropical forests on the northern coast to the icy fjords of Tierra del Fuego. The Andes mountains extend along the west coast, while the Amazon Basin dominates the heart of the continent. To the south lie the grasslands of the Pampas.

③ Lake Titicaca

South America's largest lake, Lake Titicaca is the highest navigable body of water in the world, with an elevation of 3,800 m (12,500 ft). It is home to the Uros people, who live on floating islands made from reeds. One island even houses a meeting hall and a school.

LOCATED AT THE MOUTH OF THE AMAZON, ILHA DE


OCEAN
Cabo de São Roque
Planalto da Borborema
Marajó
Represa de Tucurui
Represa de Sobradinho
Brazilian Highlands
Xingu
Tocantins
Serra dos Carajás
São Francisco
Serra do Espinhaço
Araguaia
Serra do Caiapó
Serra da Mantiqueira
Planalto de Mato Grosso
Serra de Maracaju
Paraná
Guaporé
Serra Geral
Serra do Mar
Paraguay
Gran Chaco
Pilcomayo
Uruguay
Lagoa dos Patos
Andes
Ojos del Salado 6,880 m / 22,572 ft
Mesopotamia
Paraná
Atacama Desert
Aconcagua 6,959 m / 22,831 ft
Pampas
Río de la Plata
1
Salado
Colorado
Río Negro
Península Valdés
Patagonia
Chico
Gulf of San Jorge
Falkland Islands
N
Isla de Chiloé
Bahía Grande
Strait of Magellan
Tierra del Fuego
4
Golfo de Penas
Cape Horn

Brazilian Highlands
These hilly uplands dominate eastern Brazil. They reach the coast of the Atlantic Ocean at Rio de Janeiro.

Lagoa dos Patos
The world's largest coastal lagoon is an important fishing ground.

Strait of Magellan
This strait, separating Tierra del Fuego from mainland South America, is notoriously difficult to sail through.

Patagonia
The southernmost part of South America, Patagonia is a region of barren plains, towering mountains, and rugged coastline.

FAST FACTS

① **Highest point:**
Aconcagua, Argentina – 6,959 m (22,831 ft)

② **Longest river:**
Amazon, Brazil/Colombia/Peru – 6,516 km (4,049 miles)

③ **Largest lake:**
Lake Titicaca, Peru/Bolivia – 8,372 sq km (3,232 sq miles)

④ **Largest island:**
Tierra del Fuego, Argentina/Chile – 47,992 sq km (18,530 sq miles)

Aconcagua, in Argentina, is the highest peak in South America.

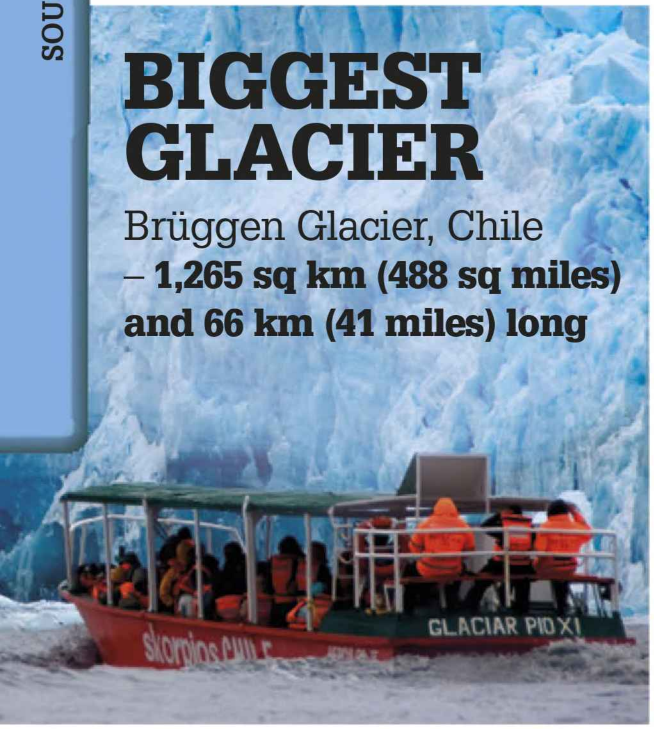
KEY
The colours on the map represent the height of the land in relation to sea level.

ELEVATION

Feet	Metres
above 26,247	above 8,000
22,965	7,000
19,685	6,000
16,404	5,000
13,123	4,000
9,842	3,000
6,560	2,000
3,280	1,000
Sea level 0	0 Sea level

MARAJO IS THE WORLD'S LARGEST RIVER ISLAND.

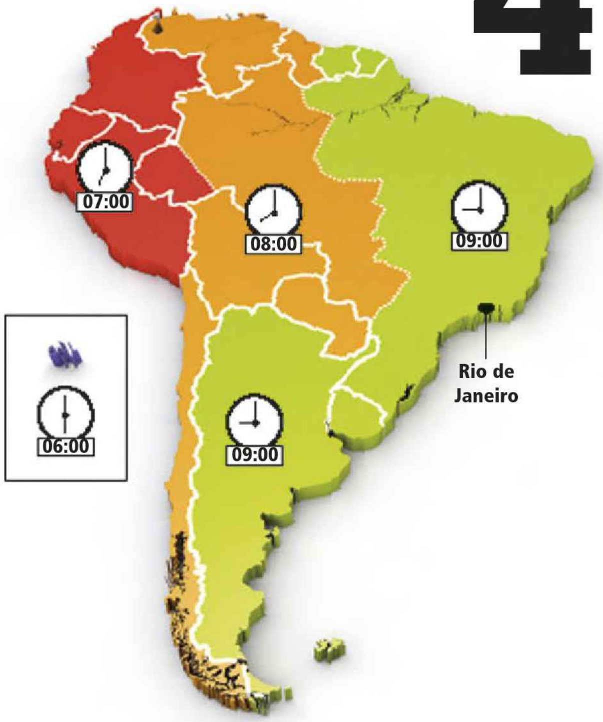
Fascinating facts



BIGGEST GLACIER

Brüggen Glacier, Chile – **1,265 sq km (488 sq miles) and 66 km (41 miles) long**

Number of time zones 4



12:00 The world is split into 39 time zones. Most are set whole hours ahead or behind Coordinated Universal Time (UCT) – the time at the Greenwich Meridian in London, UK. Some, however, are whole hours plus 30 or 45 minutes ahead or behind UCT. Therefore, on this map, if it was 12:00 in London, it would be 09:00 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (3 hours behind UCT).

COUNTRY WITH THE MOST NEIGHBOURS

Brazil (10)

French Guiana, **Suriname,** Guyana, **Venezuela,** Colombia, **Peru,** Bolivia, **Paraguay,** Argentina, **Uruguay**

Longest tunnels

Railway tunnel
Cuajone–El Sargento tunnel, Peru – 14.72 km (9.1 miles)

Road tunnel
Fernando Gomez Martinez tunnel, Colombia – 4.6 km (2.86 miles)

Number of official languages 5

Portuguese ▪ Spanish ▪ English ▪ Dutch ▪ French

Longest coastline

Brazil – **7,491 km (4,655 miles)**

Most active volcano

Villarrica, Chile

Busiest airport

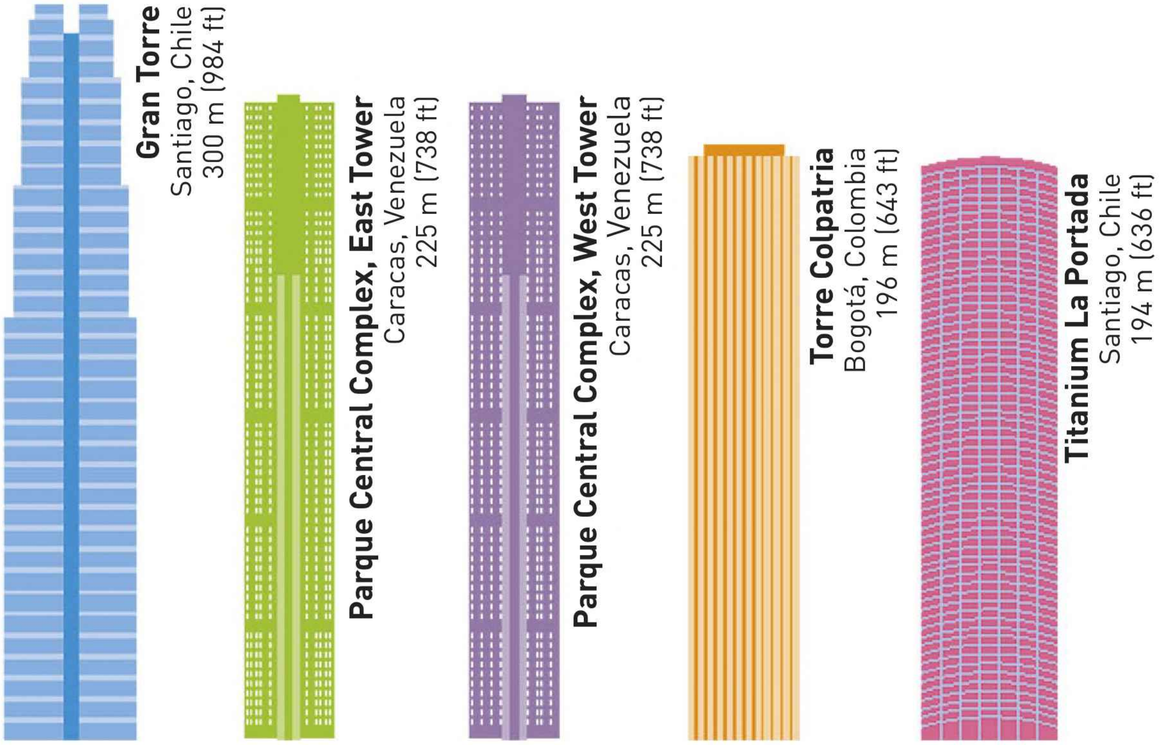
Biggest airport São Paulo-Guarulhos Airport, Brazil – passengers in 2015: **35.96 million**

Highest:
Angel Falls, Venezuela – 979 m (3,212 ft)

Largest (by volume):
Iguazú Falls, Brazil – Argentina – 1,756 m^3 (62,012 ft^3) of water per second

https://sanet.st/blogs/polatebooks/

Tallest buildings



Gran Torre
Santiago, Chile
300 m (984 ft)

Parque Central Complex, East Tower
Caracas, Venezuela
225 m (738 ft)

Parque Central Complex, West Tower
Caracas, Venezuela
225 m (738 ft)

Torre Colpatria
Bogotá, Colombia
196 m (643 ft)

Titanium La Portada
Santiago, Chile
194 m (636 ft)

Most visited cities (Visitors per year)

Lima, Peru
4.03 million

São Paulo, Brazil
2.3 million

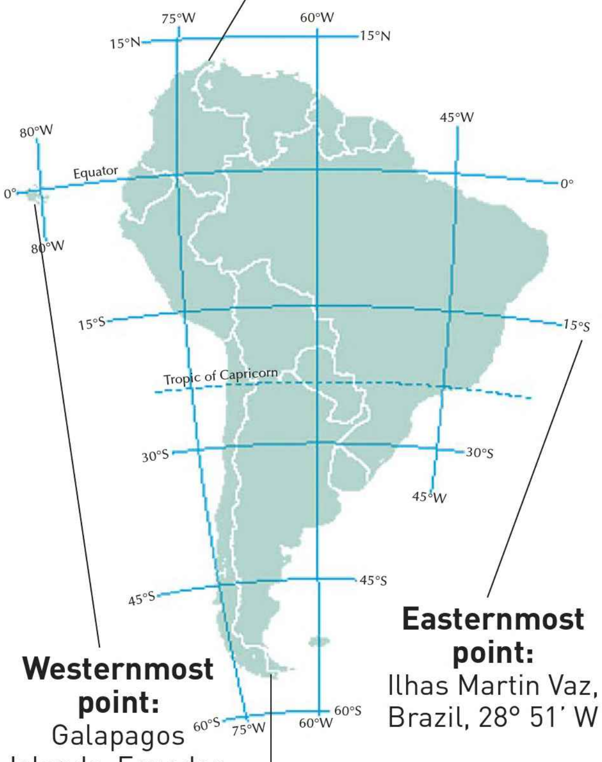
Buenos Aires, Argentina
2.02 million

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
1.37 million

Bogotá, Colombia
1.26 million

South America's extreme points

Northernmost point:
Punta Gallinas,
Colombia, 12° 28′ N



Westernmost point:
Galapagos
Islands, Ecuador,
92° 00′ W

Southernmost point:
Cape Horn,
Chile, 55° 59′ S

Easternmost point:
Ilhas Martin Vaz,
Brazil, 28° 51′ W

Longest bridge

Rio Niterói Bridge,
Guanabara Bay,
Brazil – **13.29 km (8.25 miles)**

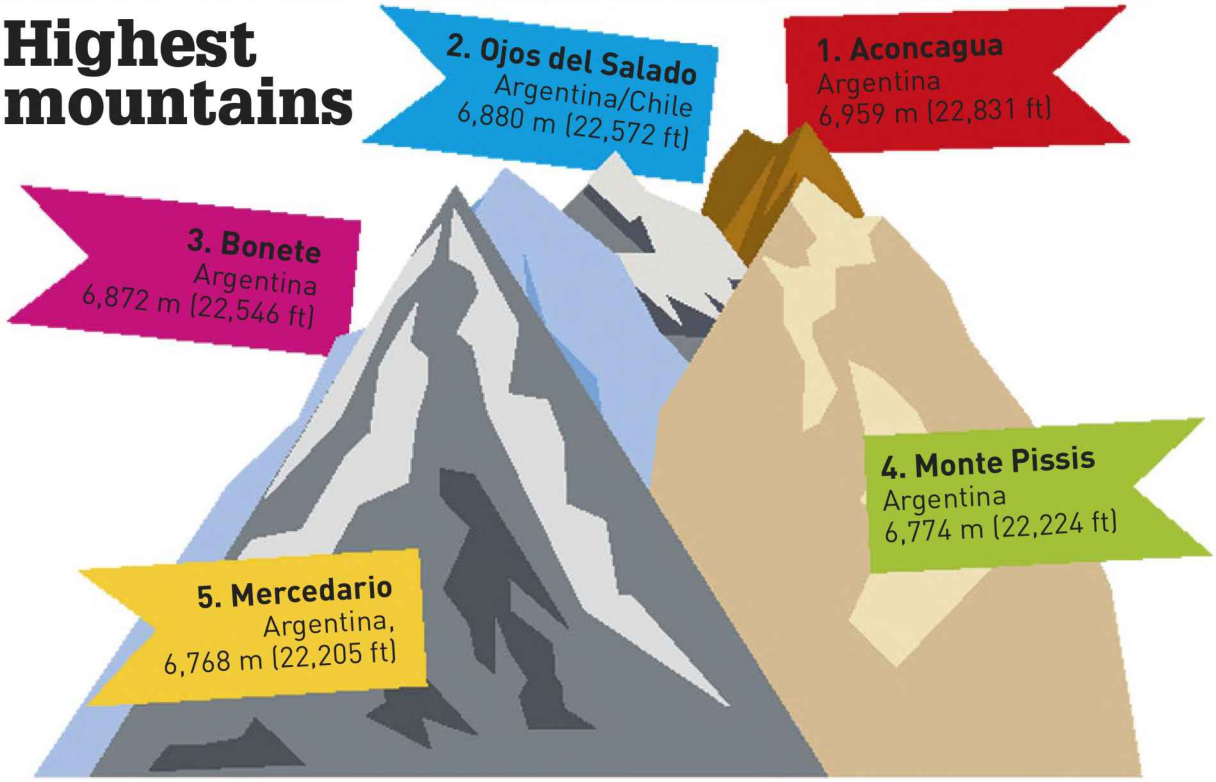
Lowest point

Laguna del Carbón,
Santa Cruz, Argentina –
-104.9 m (-344 ft)

This is the seventh-lowest point on Earth's surface.

Landlocked countries 2 – Bolivia and Paraguay

Highest mountains



1. Aconcagua
Argentina
6,959 m (22,831 ft)

2. Ojos del Salado
Argentina/Chile
6,880 m (22,572 ft)

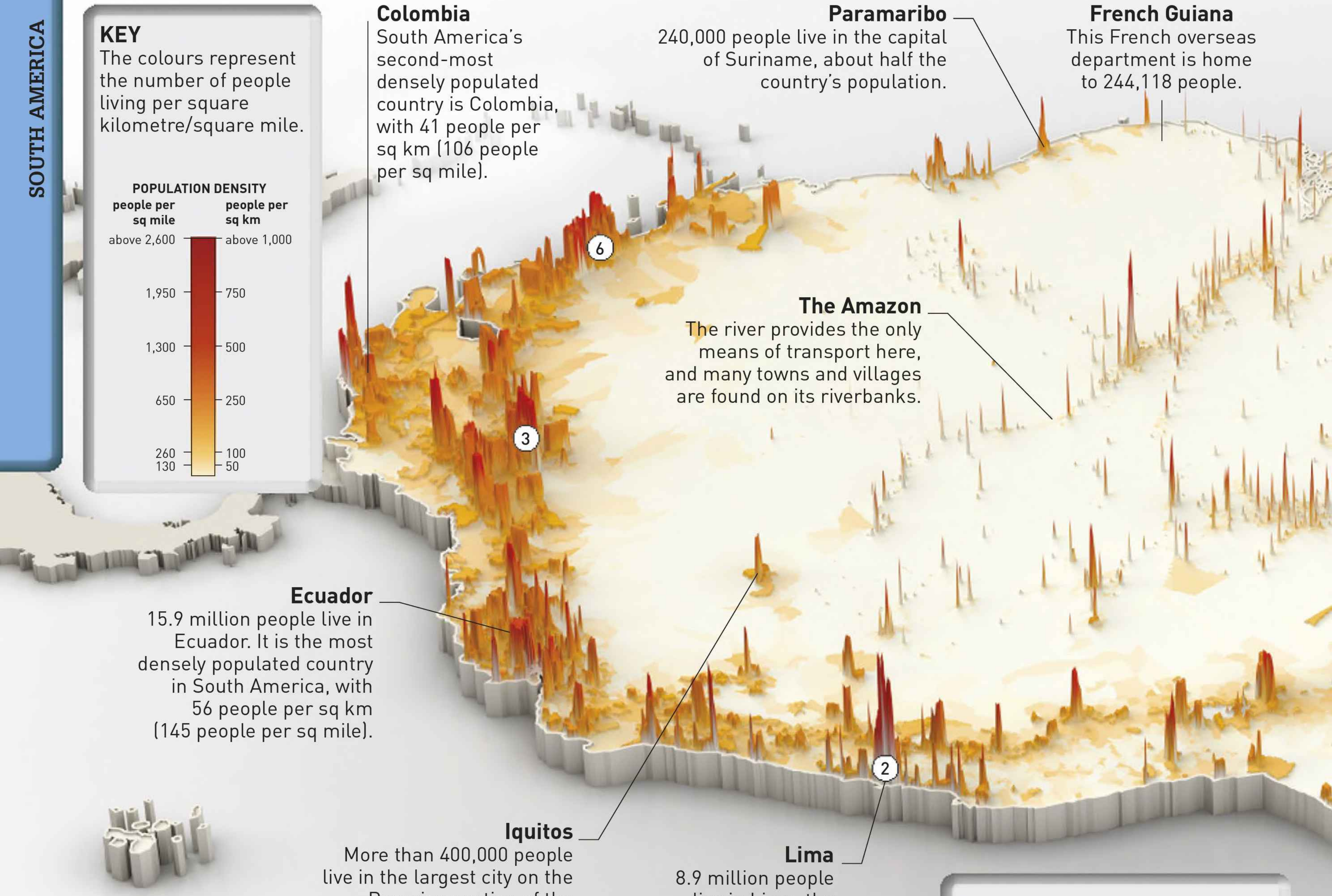
3. Bonete
Argentina
6,872 m (22,546 ft)

4. Monte Pissis
Argentina
6,774 m (22,224 ft)

5. Mercedario
Argentina,
6,768 m (22,205 ft)

Population

South America is highly urbanized, with the majority of its population living in cities such as Lima and Bogotá in the north west, or São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro on the east coast of Brazil. By contrast, Amazonia, the Altiplano plateau, and Patagonia remain sparsely populated.



KEY
The colours represent the number of people living per square kilometre/square mile.

Colombia
South America's second-most densely populated country is Colombia, with 41 people per sq km (106 people per sq mile).

Paramaribo
240,000 people live in the capital of Suriname, about half the country's population.

French Guiana
This French overseas department is home to 244,118 people.

The Amazon
The river provides the only means of transport here, and many towns and villages are found on its riverbanks.

Ecuador
15.9 million people live in Ecuador. It is the most densely populated country in South America, with 56 people per sq km (145 people per sq mile).

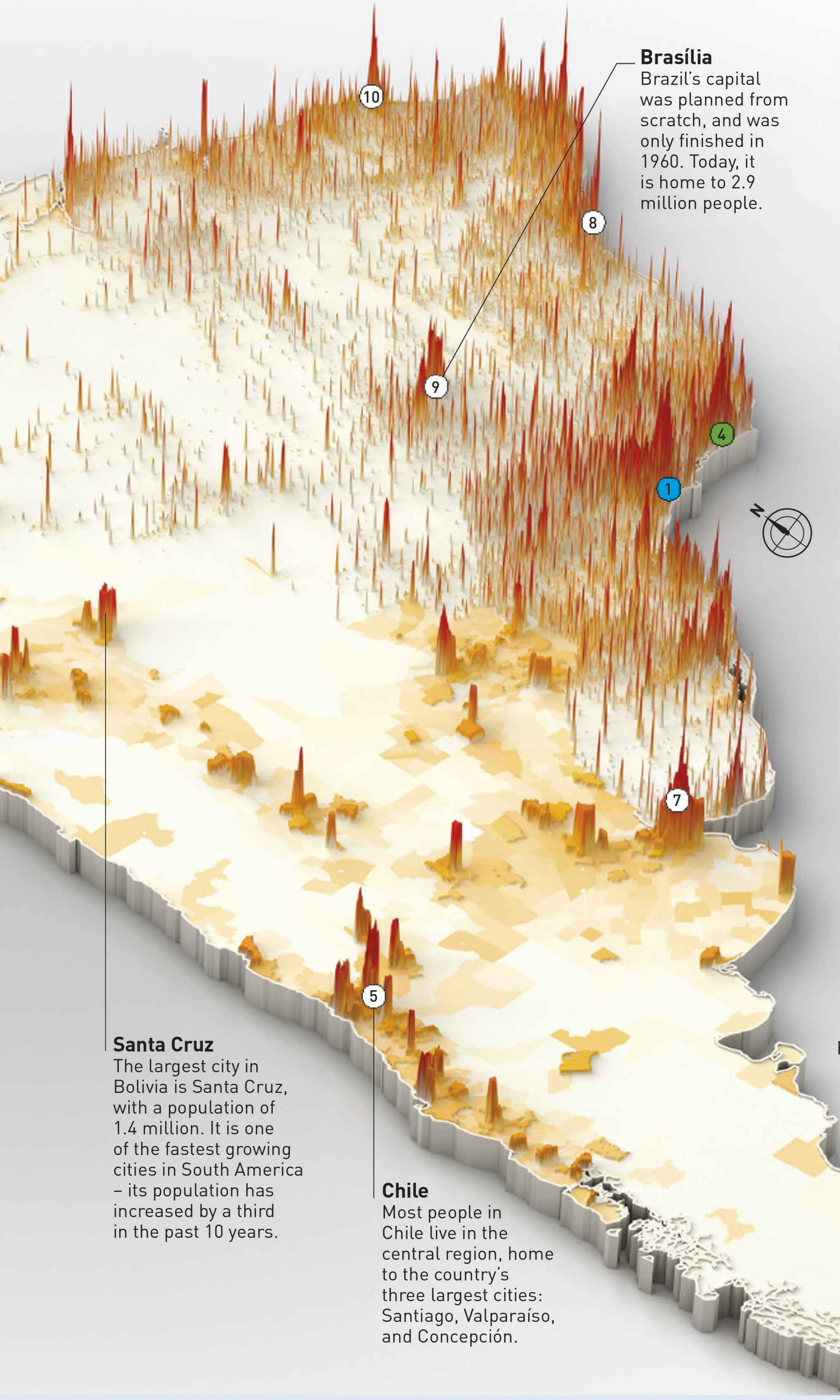
Iquitos
More than 400,000 people live in the largest city on the Peruvian section of the Amazon river. Iquitos can only be reached by boat or plane.

Lima
8.9 million people live in Lima, the capital of Peru. Its population has almost doubled since 1980.

São Paulo

The discovery of gold near to São Paulo in the 1690s attracted settlers from around the world. Today, South America's largest city is a bustling business centre, with a population of 12 million.

Tower blocks and modern architecture dominate the centre of São Paulo.



Brasília
Brazil's capital was planned from scratch, and was only finished in 1960. Today, it is home to 2.9 million people.

Santa Cruz
The largest city in Bolivia is Santa Cruz, with a population of 1.4 million. It is one of the fastest growing cities in South America – its population has increased by a third in the past 10 years.

Chile
Most people in Chile live in the central region, home to the country's three largest cities: Santiago, Valparaíso, and Concepción.

Falkland Islands
Fewer than 3,000 people live on these islands, many of them working as sheep farmers. It is the least densely populated territory in South America.

South America's largest cities

The list below is based on the number of people living inside a city's boundaries.

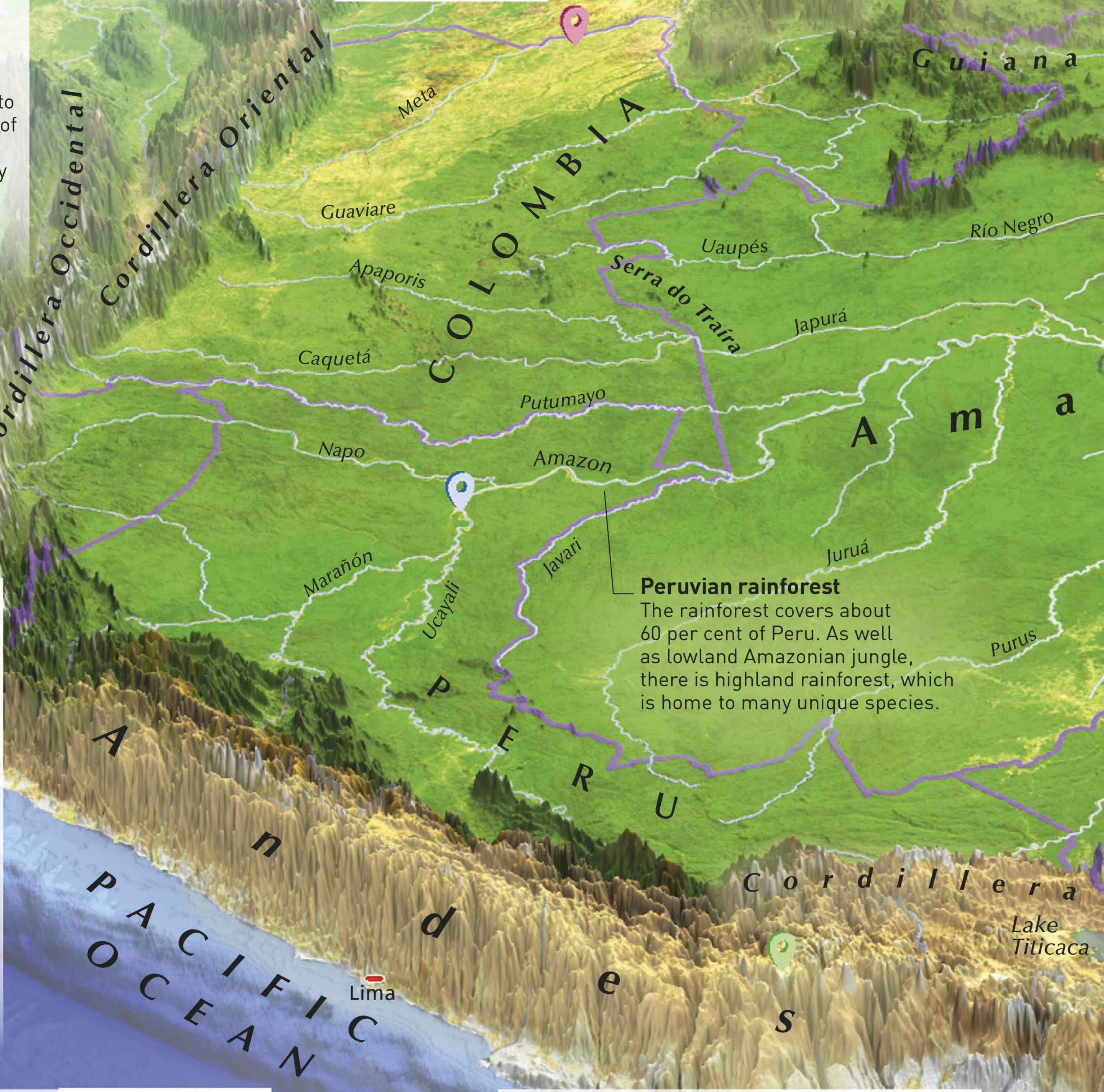
- ① **São Paulo, Brazil – 12 million**
- ② **Lima, Peru – 8.9 million**
- ③ **Bogotá, Colombia – 7.9 million**
- ④ **Rio de Janeiro, Brazil – 6.5 million**
- ⑤ **Santiago, Chile – 5.5 million**
- ⑥ **Caracas, Venezuela – 3.3 million**
- ⑦ **Buenos Aires, Argentina – 3 million**
- ⑧ **Salvador, Brazil – 2.9 million**
- ⑨ **Brasília, Brazil – 2.9 million**
- ⑩ **Fortaleza, Brazil – 2.6 million**

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil's second-largest city, was the country's capital until 1960.

IN TERMS OF BOTH ITS POPULATION AND SIZE.

The Trans-Amazonian Highway
Running from João Pessoa in the east to the Amazonian city of Lábrea, the Trans-Amazonian Highway is about 4,000 km (2,485 miles) long.

Meeting of waters
The Rio Negro's dark water meets the muddy Amazon near Manaus in Brazil. Their waters do not immediately mix, creating a two-tone river.


VENEZUELA
Llanos
Orinoco
Pakaraima Mountains
Guiana
Meta
Cordillera Oriental
Cordillera Occidental
COLOMBIA
Guaviare
Uaupés
Río Negro
Apaporis
Serra do Traíra
Japurá
Caquetá
Putumayo
Napo
Amazon
Ama
Marañón
Ucayali
Javari
Juruá
Purus
PERU
Andes
Cordillera
Lake Titicaca
PACIFIC OCEAN
Lima

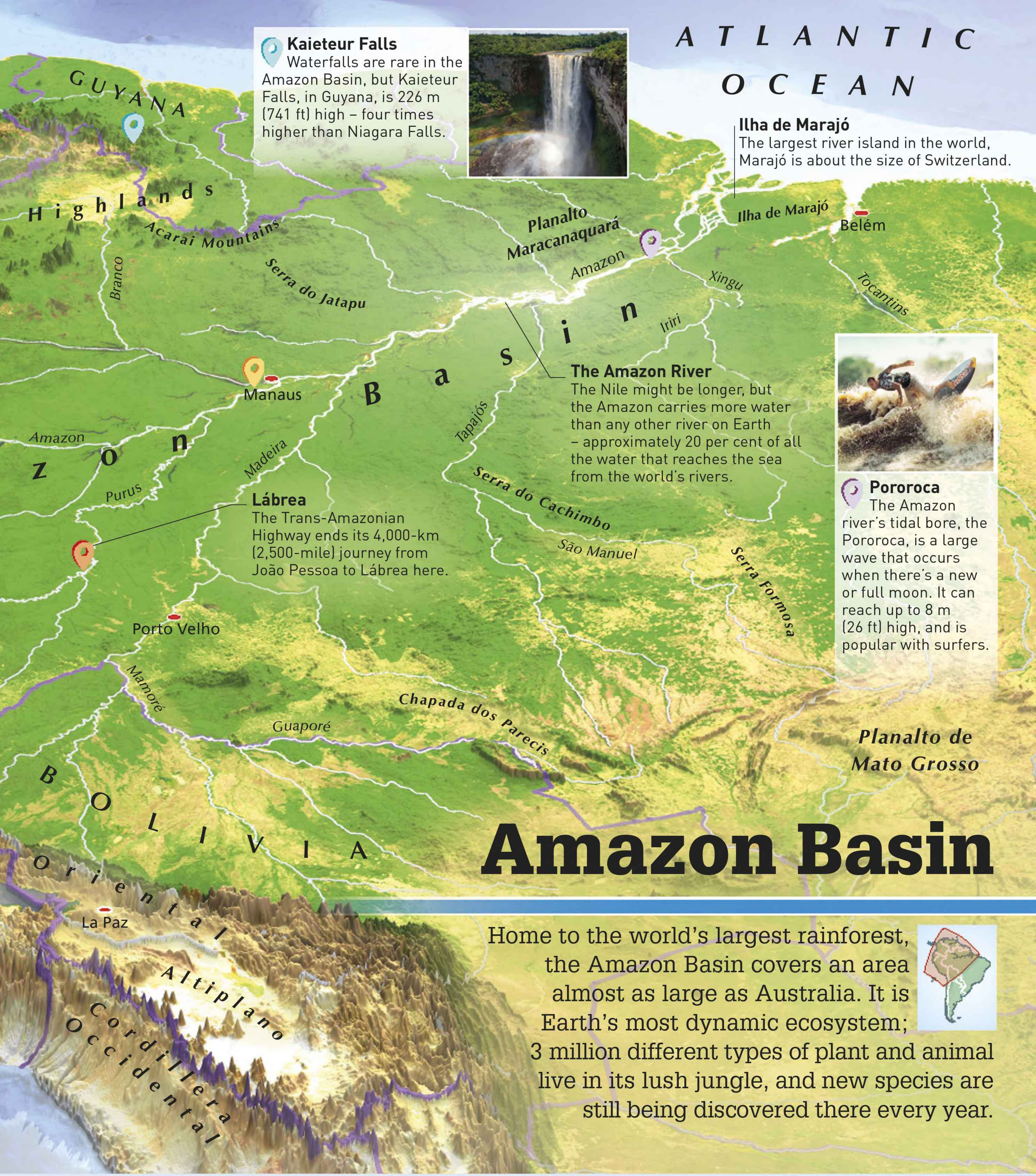
Peruvian rainforest
The rainforest covers about 60 per cent of Peru. As well as lowland Amazonian jungle, there is highland rainforest, which is home to many unique species.

Los Llanos
Rains flood this vast grassland once a year, turning it into a huge temporary marshland. It is home to many species of water birds, and the rare Orinoco crocodile.

Belén
Buildings are attached to stilts in the Peruvian village of Belén. The houses float on the river itself, rising and falling with its waters.

Nevado Mismi
The source of the Amazon river lies at the foot of a cliff face on Nevado Mismi, a mountain in the Peruvian Andes. It is marked by a cross.

THE AMAZON BASIN RECEIVES AN AVERAGE 2.3 M (7.5 FT) OF


ATLANTIC OCEAN
GUYANA
Highlands
Acarai Mountains
Branco
Serra do Jatapu
Planalto Maracanaquará
Amazon
Ilha de Marajó
Belém
Xingu
Tocantins
Iriri
Amazon Basin
Manaus
Amazon
Purus
Madeira
Tapajós
Serra do Cachimbo
São Manuel
Serra Formosa
Porto Velho
Mamoré
Guaporé
Chapada dos Parecis
Planalto de Mato Grosso
BOLIVIA
Oriental
La Paz
Altiplano
Cordillera Occidental

Amazon Basin

Home to the world's largest rainforest, the Amazon Basin covers an area almost as large as Australia. It is Earth's most dynamic ecosystem; 3 million different types of plant and animal live in its lush jungle, and new species are still being discovered there every year.

Kaieteur Falls
Waterfalls are rare in the Amazon Basin, but Kaieteur Falls, in Guyana, is 226 m (741 ft) high – four times higher than Niagara Falls.

Ilha de Marajó
The largest river island in the world, Marajó is about the size of Switzerland.

The Amazon River
The Nile might be longer, but the Amazon carries more water than any other river on Earth – approximately 20 per cent of all the water that reaches the sea from the world's rivers.

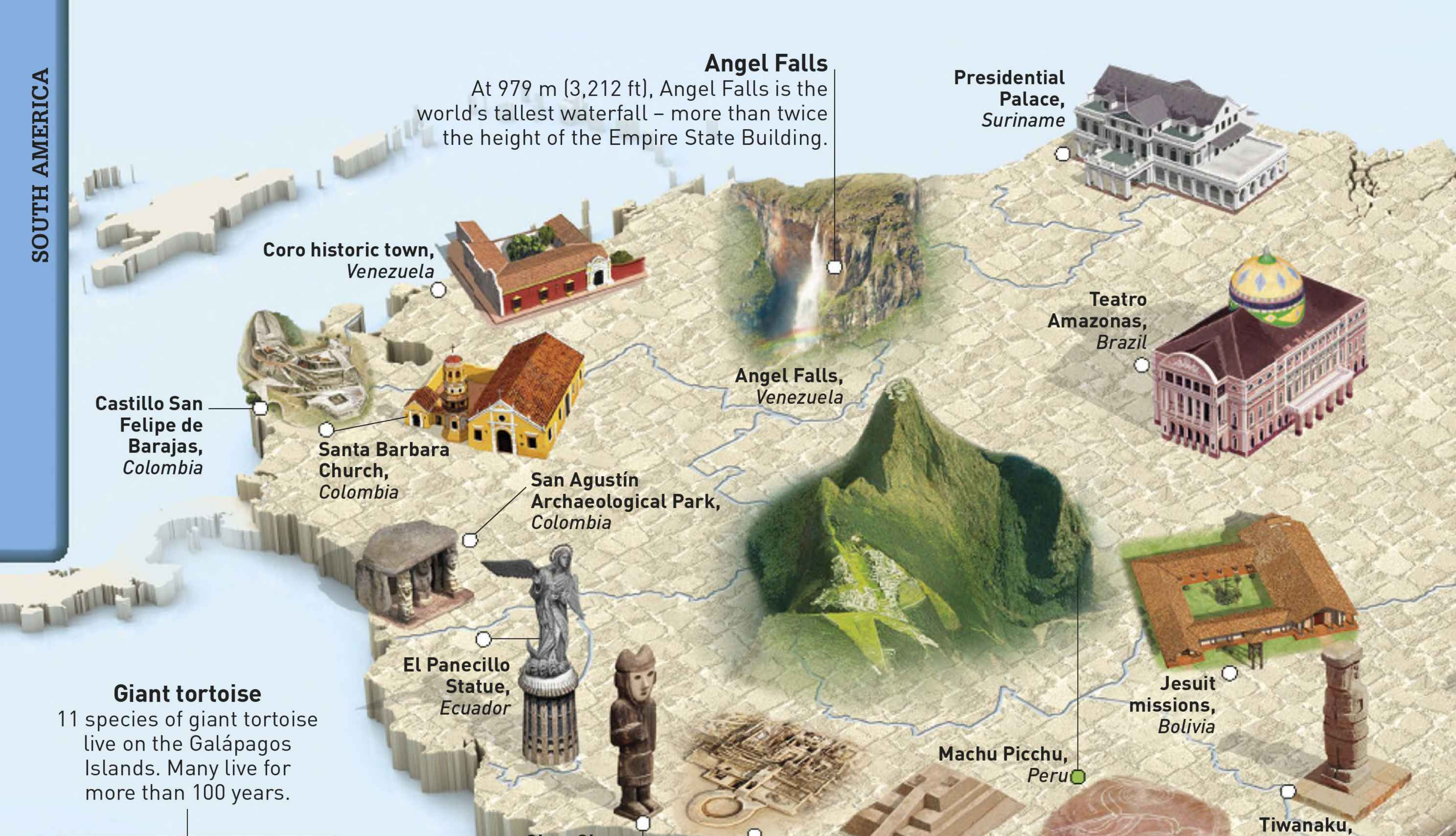
Pororoca
The Amazon river's tidal bore, the Pororoca, is a large wave that occurs when there's a new or full moon. It can reach up to 8 m (26 ft) high, and is popular with surfers.

Lábrea
The Trans-Amazonian Highway ends its 4,000-km (2,500-mile) journey from João Pessoa to Lábrea here.

RAINFALL ANNUALLY. MOST OF IT FALLS BETWEEN NOVEMBER AND MAY.

Famous landmarks

South America is home to an incredible wealth of cultural sites, ranging from the Inca ruins of Machu Picchu to the modern architecture of Brasília. It also boasts awe-inspiring natural wonders, such as Venezuela's Angel Falls and the glaciers of Chile and Argentina.


Presidential Palace, *Suriname*
Coro historic town, *Venezuela*
Angel Falls, *Venezuela*
Teatro Amazonas, *Brazil*
Castillo San Felipe de Barajas, *Colombia*
Santa Barbara Church, *Colombia*
San Agustín Archaeological Park, *Colombia*
El Panecillo Statue, *Ecuador*
Jesuit missions, *Bolivia*
Machu Picchu, *Peru*
Tiwanaku, *Bolivia*
Chan Chan, *Peru*
Sacred city of Caral-Supe, *Peru*
Wak'a Wallamarka, *Peru*
Nazca Lines, *Peru*

Angel Falls
At 979 m (3,212 ft), Angel Falls is the world's tallest waterfall – more than twice the height of the Empire State Building.

Giant tortoise
11 species of giant tortoise live on the Galápagos Islands. Many live for more than 100 years.

Giant tortoise, *Galápagos*

Chan Chan
The largest pre-Columbian city in the Americas, Chan Chan was built by the Chimu people in around 850 CE. Many of the city's walls have crumbled over time, but several statues have survived.

Nazca Lines
Hundreds of geometric patterns cover the Nazca Desert. About 70 of them are images of animals, but they can only be seen in full from an aircraft.

Christ the Redeemer

Looking down from the summit of Mount Corcovado onto Rio de Janeiro, Christ the Redeemer is one of the continent's best-loved landmarks. Finished in 1931, the 39-m (128-ft) tall statue took five years to build.

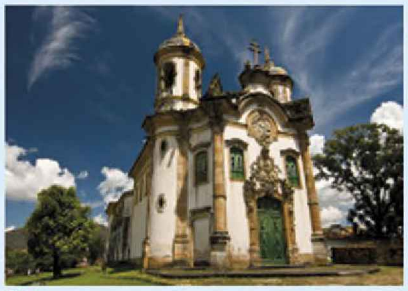
● The giant statue of Jesus Christ towers over Brazil's second city, Rio de Janeiro.

THE CUEVA DE LAS MANOS IS A CAVE IN ARGENTINA COVERED WITH

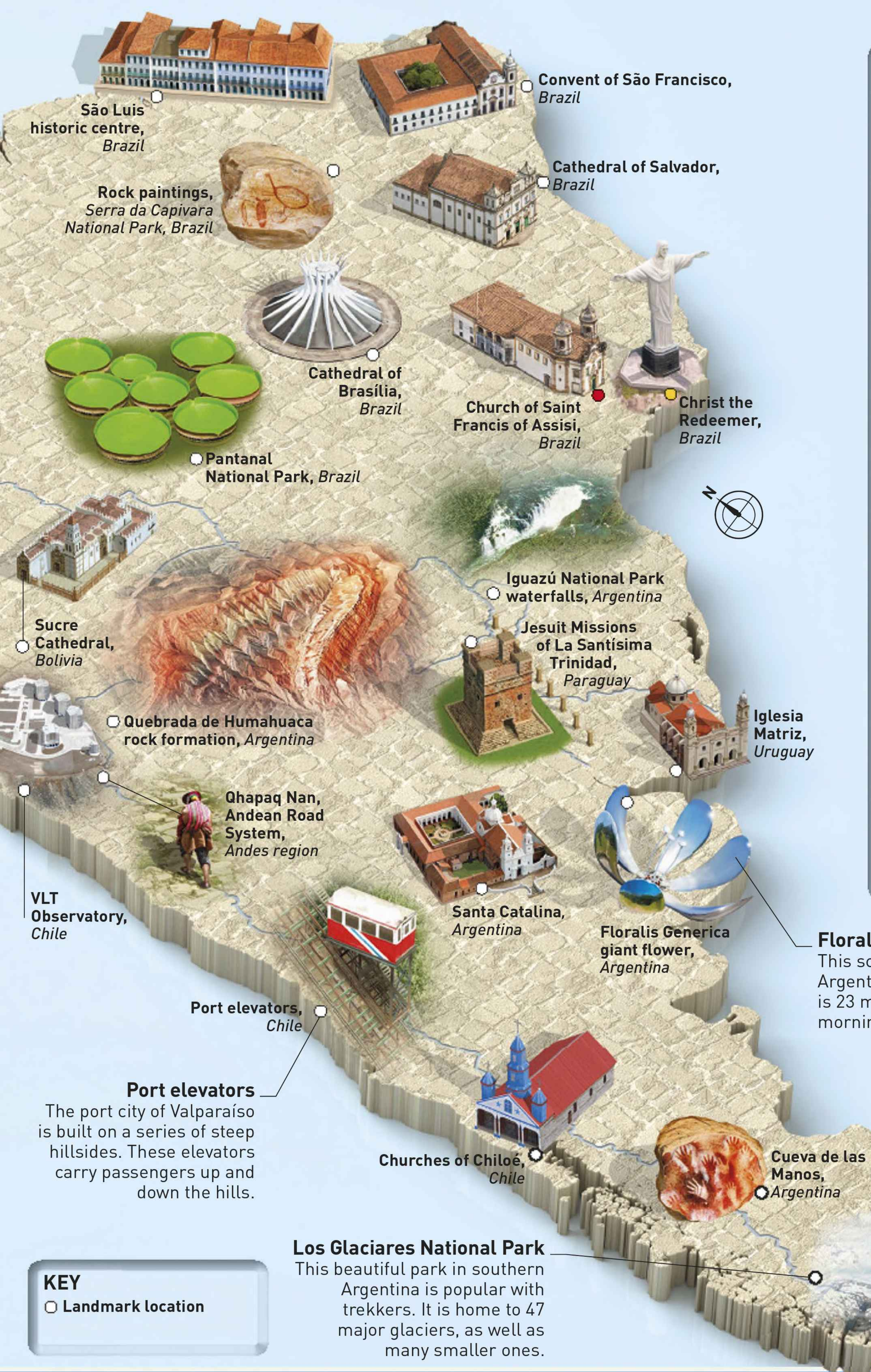
Buildings

South America's buildings reflect the continent's rich history. They vary from the stunning ruins left behind by the Inca Empire to the many churches and monasteries built when the region was ruled by Spain and Portugal.

🟢 The Inca citadel of Machu Picchu is located high in the Peruvian Andes. The site's purpose remains a mystery, but it may have had a religious role.



🔴 The Church of Saint Francis of Assisi in Ouro Preto, Brazil, is just one of the beautiful churches built during the time Brazil was a Portuguese colony.


São Luis historic centre, *Brazil*
Convent of São Francisco, *Brazil*
Rock paintings, *Serra da Capivara National Park, Brazil*
Cathedral of Salvador, *Brazil*
Cathedral of Brasília, *Brazil*
Church of Saint Francis of Assisi, *Brazil*
Christ the Redeemer, *Brazil*
Pantanal National Park, *Brazil*
N
Iguazú National Park waterfalls, *Argentina*
Sucre Cathedral, *Bolivia*
Jesuit Missions of La Santísima Trinidad, *Paraguay*
Quebrada de Humahuaca rock formation, *Argentina*
Iglesia Matriz, *Uruguay*
Qhapaq Nan, Andean Road System, *Andes region*
VLT Observatory, *Chile*
Santa Catalina, *Argentina*
Floralis Generica giant flower, *Argentina*
Port elevators, *Chile*
Churches of Chiloé, *Chile*
Cueva de las Manos, *Argentina*
Los Glaciares National Park, *Argentina*

Floralis Generica giant flower

This sculpture of a flower in Argentina's capital, Buenos Aires, is 23 m (76 ft) high. It opens each morning and closes at night.

Port elevators

The port city of Valparaíso is built on a series of steep hillsides. These elevators carry passengers up and down the hills.

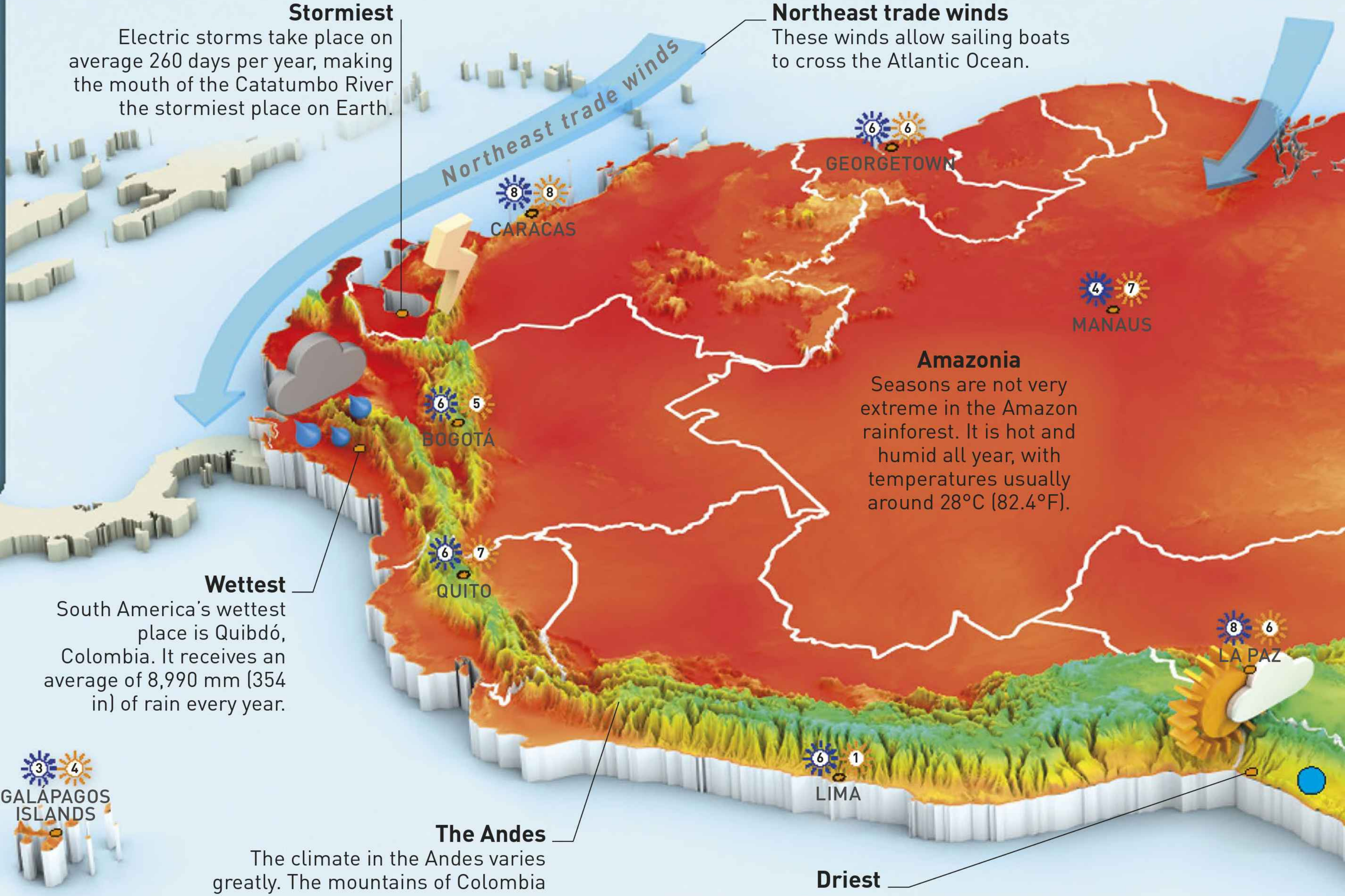
Los Glaciares National Park

This beautiful park in southern Argentina is popular with trekkers. It is home to 47 major glaciers, as well as many smaller ones.

KEY

○ Landmark location

THE STENCILLED IMAGES OF HANDS. IT DATES FROM 7,300 BCE.



Stormiest
Electric storms take place on average 260 days per year, making the mouth of the Catatumbo River the stormiest place on Earth.

Northeast trade winds
These winds allow sailing boats to cross the Atlantic Ocean.

Amazonia
Seasons are not very extreme in the Amazon rainforest. It is hot and humid all year, with temperatures usually around 28°C (82.4°F).

Wettest
South America's wettest place is Quibdó, Colombia. It receives an average of 8,990 mm (354 in) of rain every year.

The Andes
The climate in the Andes varies greatly. The mountains of Colombia are usually warm and rainy, while northern Chile receives little rain. The far south is much colder and wetter, and is home to many glaciers.

Driest
With just over 0.76 mm (0.03 in) of rain falling on average every year, Arica, in Chile, is the driest town on Earth.

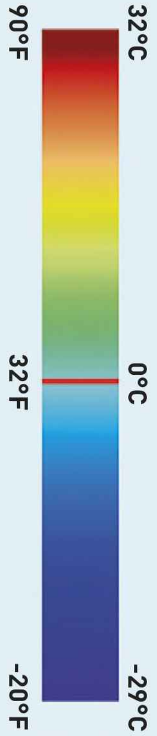
Climate

South America's climate ranges from the tropical heat of the Caribbean coastline in the north to the icy winters and damp summers of Tierra del Fuego in the far south. The Andes mountains and the Amazon rainforest create their own climate systems that affect the rest of the continent.

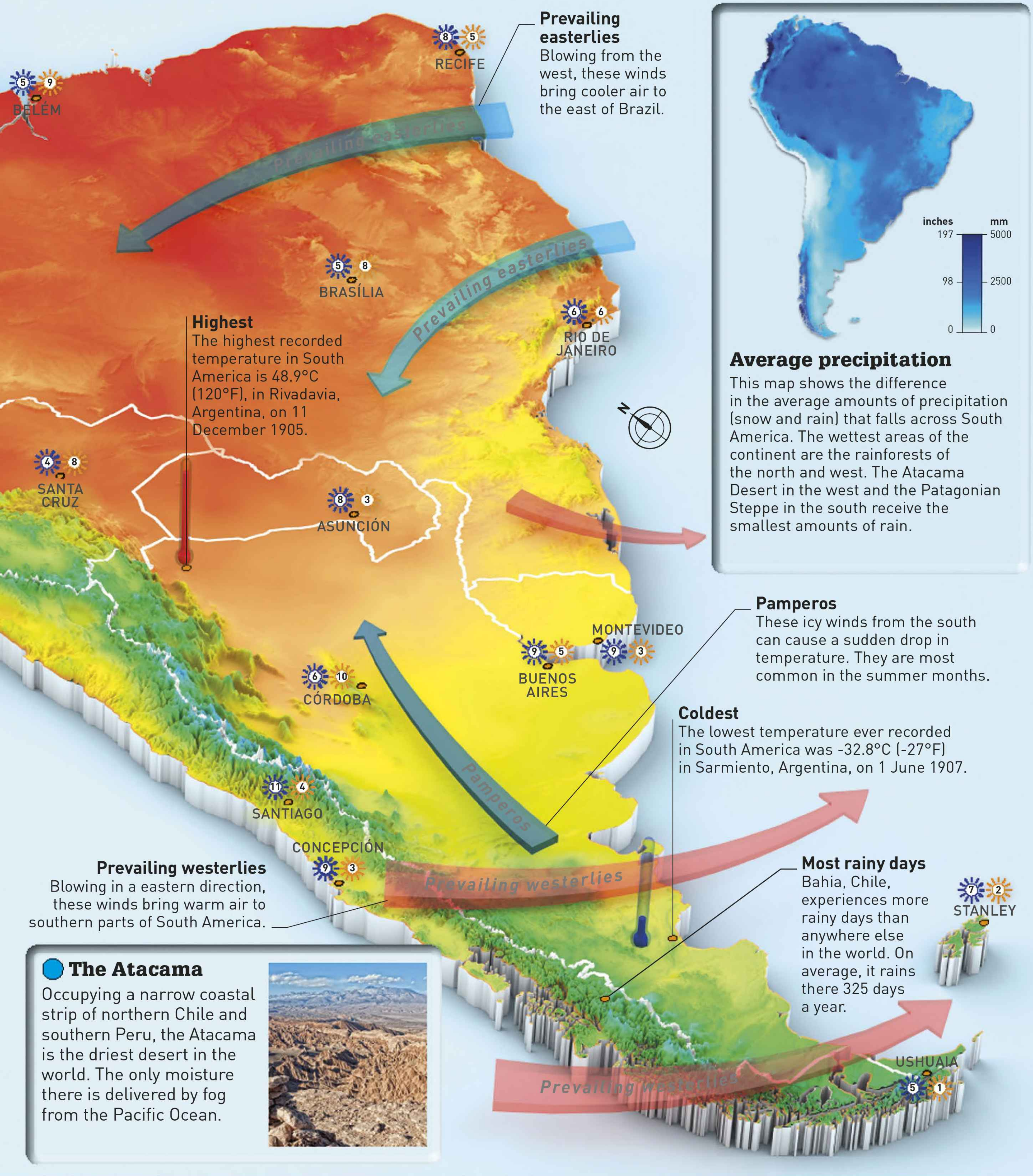
KEY
The scale on the right represents average annual temperatures, with dark red being the hottest and dark blue being the coldest.

AVERAGE HOURS OF SUNSHINE/DAY

- ☼ January
- ☼ July
- ● Town/city
- ⬉ Warm winds
- ⬉ Cold winds



THERE ARE WEATHER STATIONS IN THE ATACAMA DESERT THAT


5
9
BELÉM
8
5
RECIFE
Prevailing easterlies
5
8
BRASÍLIA
Prevailing easterlies
6
6
RIO DE JANEIRO
4
8
SANTA CRUZ
8
3
ASUNCIÓN
N
MONTEVIDEO
9
3
9
5
BUENOS AIRES
6
10
CÓRDOBA
Pamperos
11
4
SANTIAGO
CONCEPCIÓN
9
3
Prevailing westerlies
7
2
STANLEY
USHUAIA
5
1
Prevailing westerlies

Prevailing easterlies
Blowing from the west, these winds bring cooler air to the east of Brazil.

Highest
The highest recorded temperature in South America is 48.9°C (120°F), in Rivadavia, Argentina, on 11 December 1905.

inches
mm
197
5000
98
2500
0
0

Average precipitation

This map shows the difference in the average amounts of precipitation (snow and rain) that falls across South America. The wettest areas of the continent are the rainforests of the north and west. The Atacama Desert in the west and the Patagonian Steppe in the south receive the smallest amounts of rain.

Pamperos
These icy winds from the south can cause a sudden drop in temperature. They are most common in the summer months.

Coldest
The lowest temperature ever recorded in South America was -32.8°C (-27°F) in Sarmiento, Argentina, on 1 June 1907.

Prevailing westerlies
Blowing in a eastern direction, these winds bring warm air to southern parts of South America.

Most rainy days
Bahia, Chile, experiences more rainy days than anywhere else in the world. On average, it rains there 325 days a year.

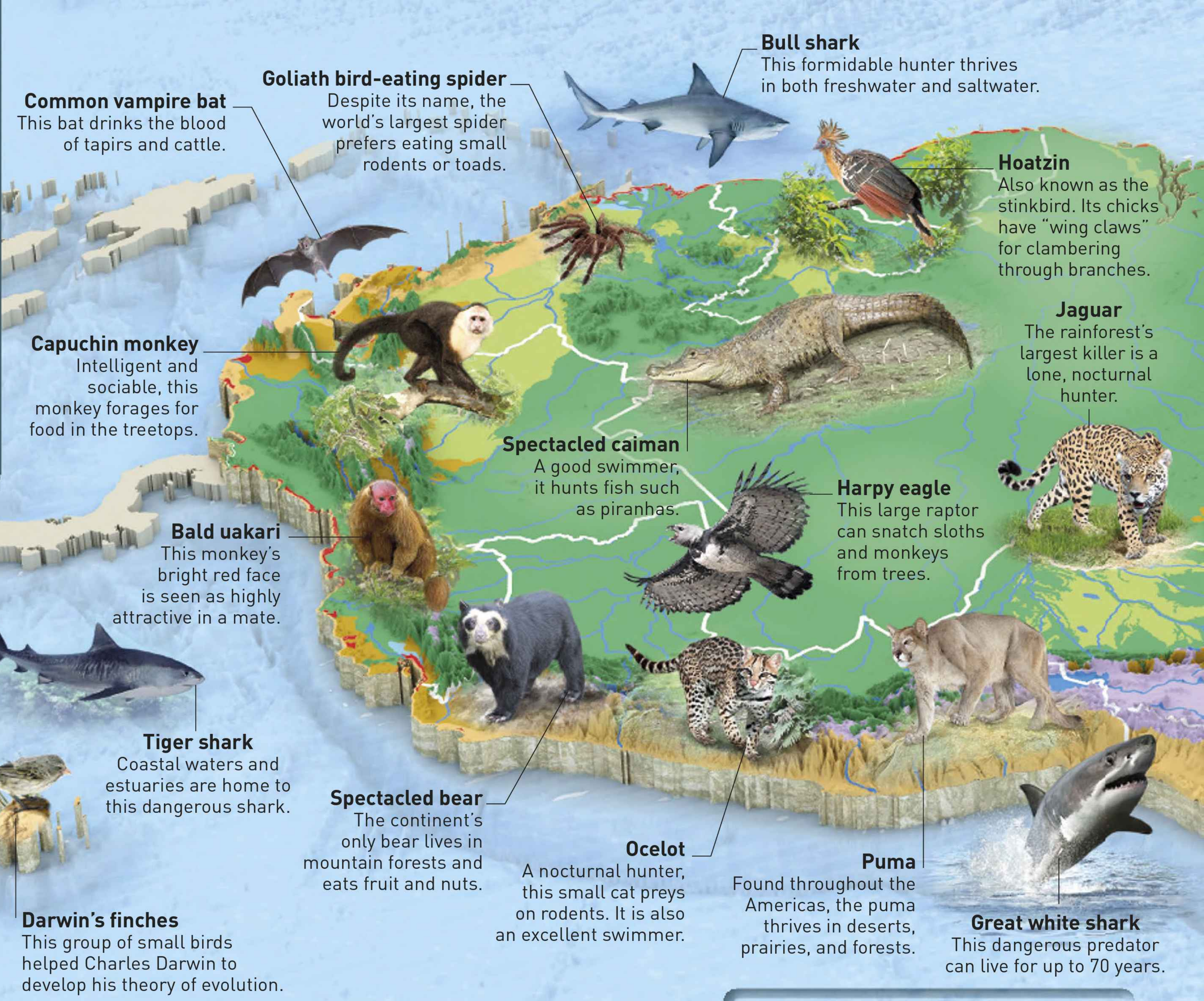
The Atacama

Occupying a narrow coastal strip of northern Chile and southern Peru, the Atacama is the driest desert in the world. The only moisture there is delivered by fog from the Pacific Ocean.

HAVE NEVER RECORDED A SINGLE DROP OF RAIN.

Wildlife

The grasslands, mountains, and rainforests of South America contain an incredible variety of plant and animal species. This vast range of habitats is home to many species of birds, mammals, and amphibians that are found nowhere else on Earth.



Common vampire bat
This bat drinks the blood of tapirs and cattle.

Goliath bird-eating spider
Despite its name, the world's largest spider prefers eating small rodents or toads.

Bull shark
This formidable hunter thrives in both freshwater and saltwater.

Hoatzin
Also known as the stinkbird. Its chicks have "wing claws" for clambering through branches.

Capuchin monkey
Intelligent and sociable, this monkey forages for food in the treetops.

Jaguar
The rainforest's largest killer is a lone, nocturnal hunter.

Spectacled caiman
A good swimmer, it hunts fish such as piranhas.

Harpy eagle
This large raptor can snatch sloths and monkeys from trees.

Bald uakari
This monkey's bright red face is seen as highly attractive in a mate.

Tiger shark
Coastal waters and estuaries are home to this dangerous shark.

Spectacled bear
The continent's only bear lives in mountain forests and eats fruit and nuts.

Ocelot
A nocturnal hunter, this small cat preys on rodents. It is also an excellent swimmer.

Puma
Found throughout the Americas, the puma thrives in deserts, prairies, and forests.

Great white shark
This dangerous predator can live for up to 70 years.

Darwin's finches
This group of small birds helped Charles Darwin to develop his theory of evolution.

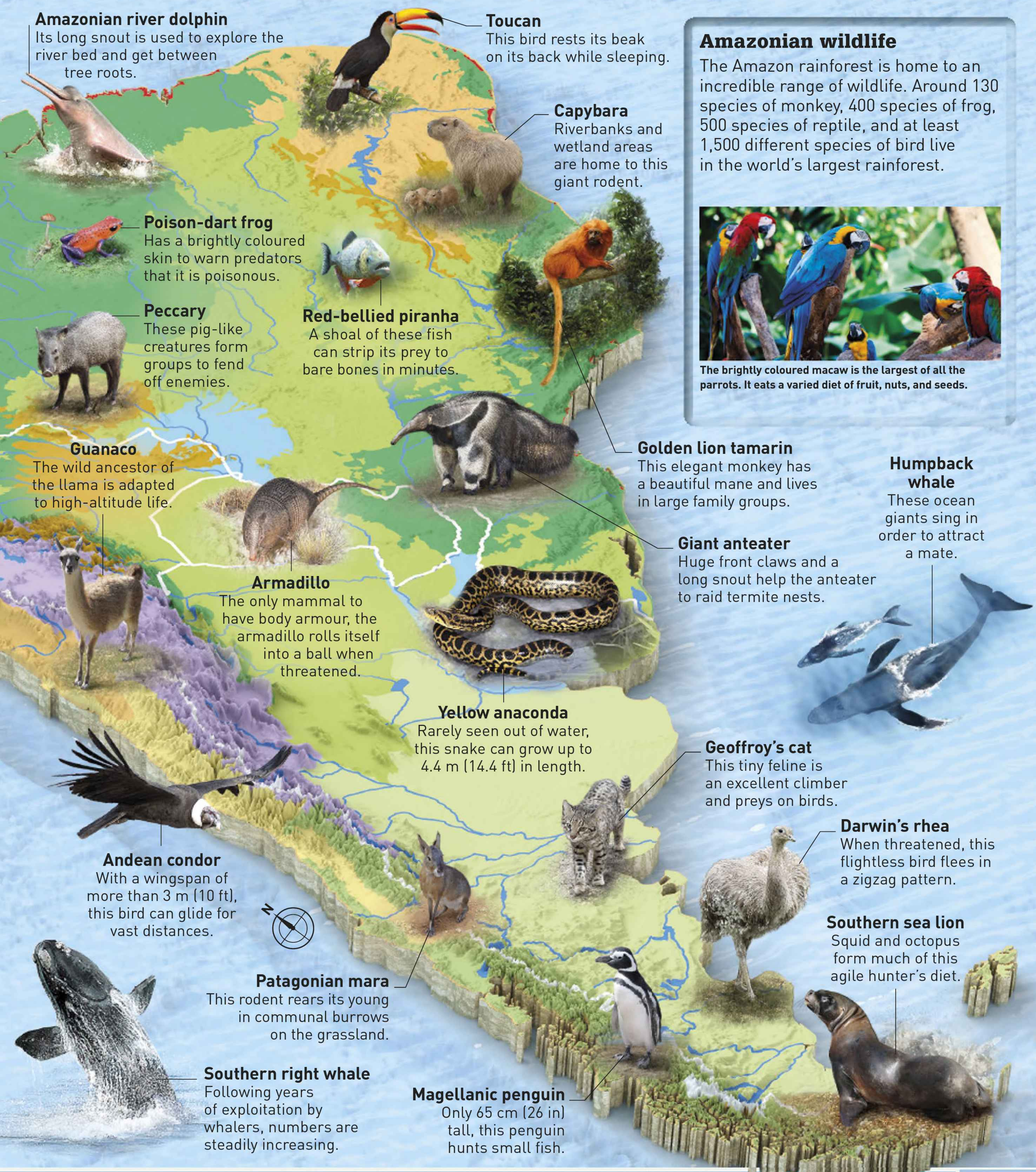
BIOMES
Tropical broadleaf forest is widespread in the north, before it gives way to temperate grasslands and temperate broadleaf forest in the south.

- ⬜ **Ice**
- 🟩 **Temperate broadleaf forest**
- 🟨 **Temperate grassland**
- 🟨 **Mediterranean**
- 🟩 **Tropical broadleaf forest**
- 🟫 **Tropical dry broadleaf forest**
- 🟪 **Mountain**
- 🟧 **Desert**
- 🟦 **Flooded grassland**
- 🟥 **Mangrove**

Amazonian wildlife

The Amazon rainforest is home to an incredible range of wildlife. Around 130 species of monkey, 400 species of frog, 500 species of reptile, and at least 1,500 different species of bird live in the world's largest rainforest.

The brightly coloured macaw is the largest of all the parrots. It eats a varied diet of fruit, nuts, and seeds.



Amazonian river dolphin Its long snout is used to explore the river bed and get between tree roots.

Toucan This bird rests its beak on its back while sleeping.

Capybara Riverbanks and wetland areas are home to this giant rodent.

Poison-dart frog Has a brightly coloured skin to warn predators that it is poisonous.

Peccary These pig-like creatures form groups to fend off enemies.

Red-bellied piranha A shoal of these fish can strip its prey to bare bones in minutes.

Golden lion tamarin This elegant monkey has a beautiful mane and lives in large family groups.

Humpback whale These ocean giants sing in order to attract a mate.

Guanaco The wild ancestor of the llama is adapted to high-altitude life.

Giant anteater Huge front claws and a long snout help the anteater to raid termite nests.

Armadillo The only mammal to have body armour, the armadillo rolls itself into a ball when threatened.

Yellow anaconda Rarely seen out of water, this snake can grow up to 4.4 m (14.4 ft) in length.

Geoffroy's cat This tiny feline is an excellent climber and preys on birds.

Darwin's rhea When threatened, this flightless bird flees in a zigzag pattern.

Andean condor With a wingspan of more than 3 m (10 ft), this bird can glide for vast distances.

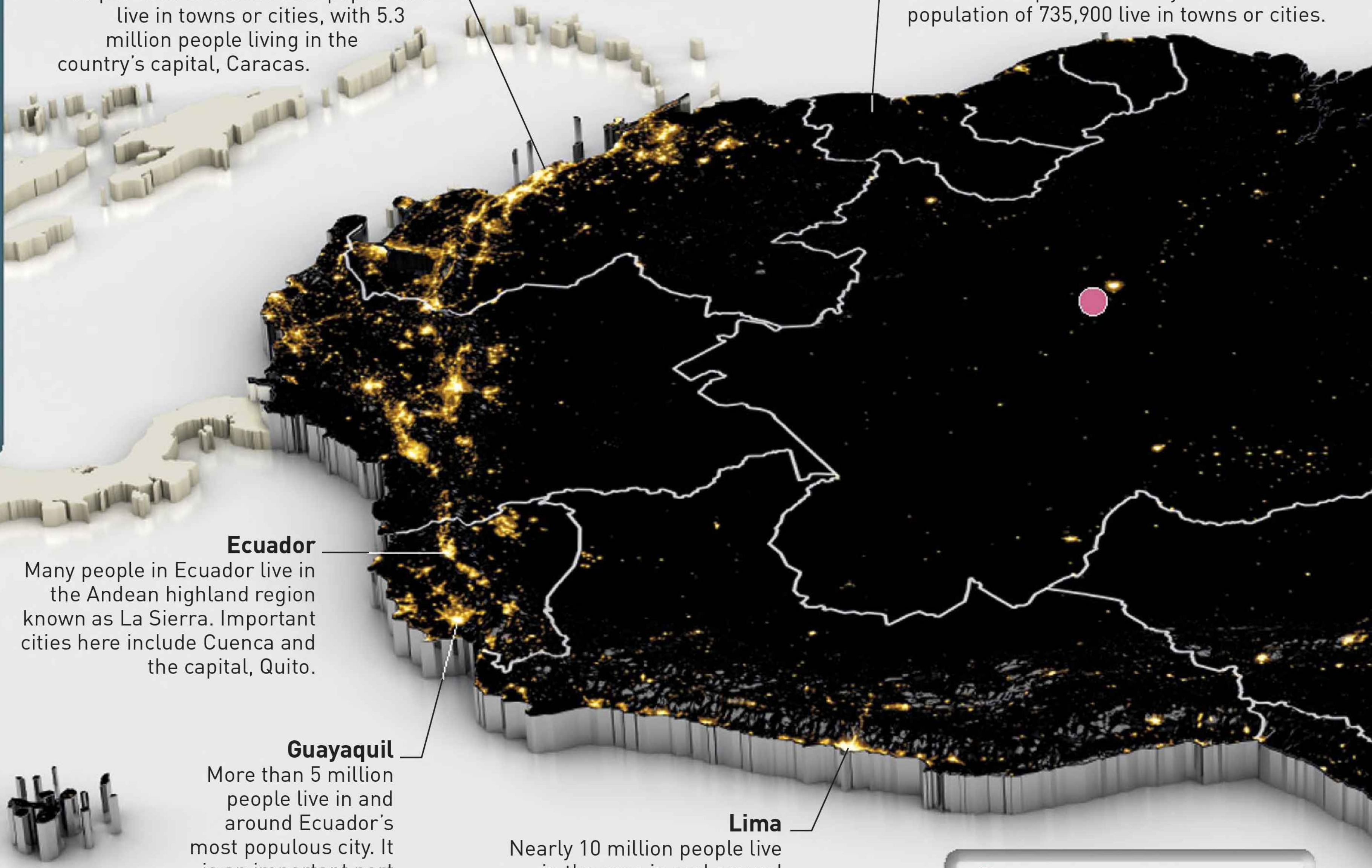
Southern sea lion Squid and octopus form much of this agile hunter's diet.

Patagonian mara This rodent rears its young in communal burrows on the grassland.

Southern right whale Following years of exploitation by whalers, numbers are steadily increasing.

Magellanic penguin Only 65 cm (26 in) tall, this penguin hunts small fish.

BEEN KNOWN TO ATTACK AND KILL CROCODILES.



Caracas
89 per cent of Venezuela's population live in towns or cities, with 5.3 million people living in the country's capital, Caracas.

Guyana
Less than 30 per cent of Guyana's population of 735,900 live in towns or cities.

Ecuador
Many people in Ecuador live in the Andean highland region known as La Sierra. Important cities here include Cuenca and the capital, Quito.

Guayaquil
More than 5 million people live in and around Ecuador's most populous city. It is an important port and business centre.

Lima
Nearly 10 million people live in the area in and around the Peruvian capital.

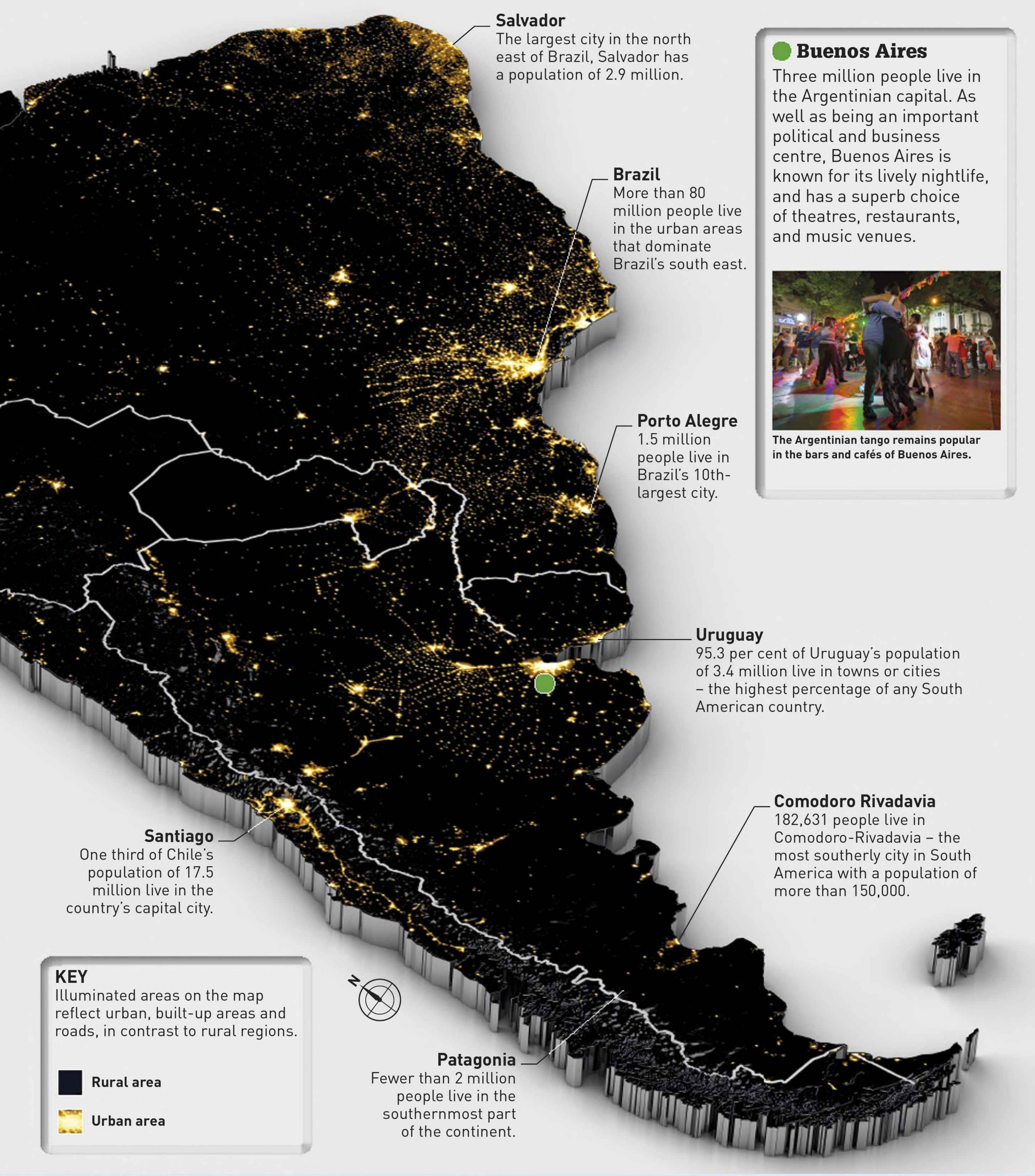
Almost **one half** of South America's population lives **in Brazil**.

By night

The brightly lit urban areas of Ecuador, Colombia, and Venezuela dominate the northwest of the continent. The cities of southeast Brazil, meanwhile, contrast sharply with the dark expanses of Amazonia, in which only occasional dots of light mark the rainforest's few settlements.

● Manaus
Located at the heart of the Amazon rainforest, Manaus, with a population of 2 million, is the largest city in Amazonia. This lively port made its wealth in the 19th century through the rubber trade.

The opera house in Manaus is one of the grandest buildings in Amazonia.



Salvador
The largest city in the north east of Brazil, Salvador has a population of 2.9 million.

Brazil
More than 80 million people live in the urban areas that dominate Brazil's south east.

Porto Alegre
1.5 million people live in Brazil's 10th-largest city.

Uruguay
95.3 per cent of Uruguay's population of 3.4 million live in towns or cities – the highest percentage of any South American country.

Comodoro Rivadavia
182,631 people live in Comodoro-Rivadavia – the most southerly city in South America with a population of more than 150,000.

Santiago
One third of Chile's population of 17.5 million live in the country's capital city.

Patagonia
Fewer than 2 million people live in the southernmost part of the continent.

● Buenos Aires

Three million people live in the Argentinian capital. As well as being an important political and business centre, Buenos Aires is known for its lively nightlife, and has a superb choice of theatres, restaurants, and music venues.

The Argentinian tango remains popular in the bars and cafés of Buenos Aires.

KEY
Illuminated areas on the map reflect urban, built-up areas and roads, in contrast to rural regions.

■ **Rural area**

▨ **Urban area**

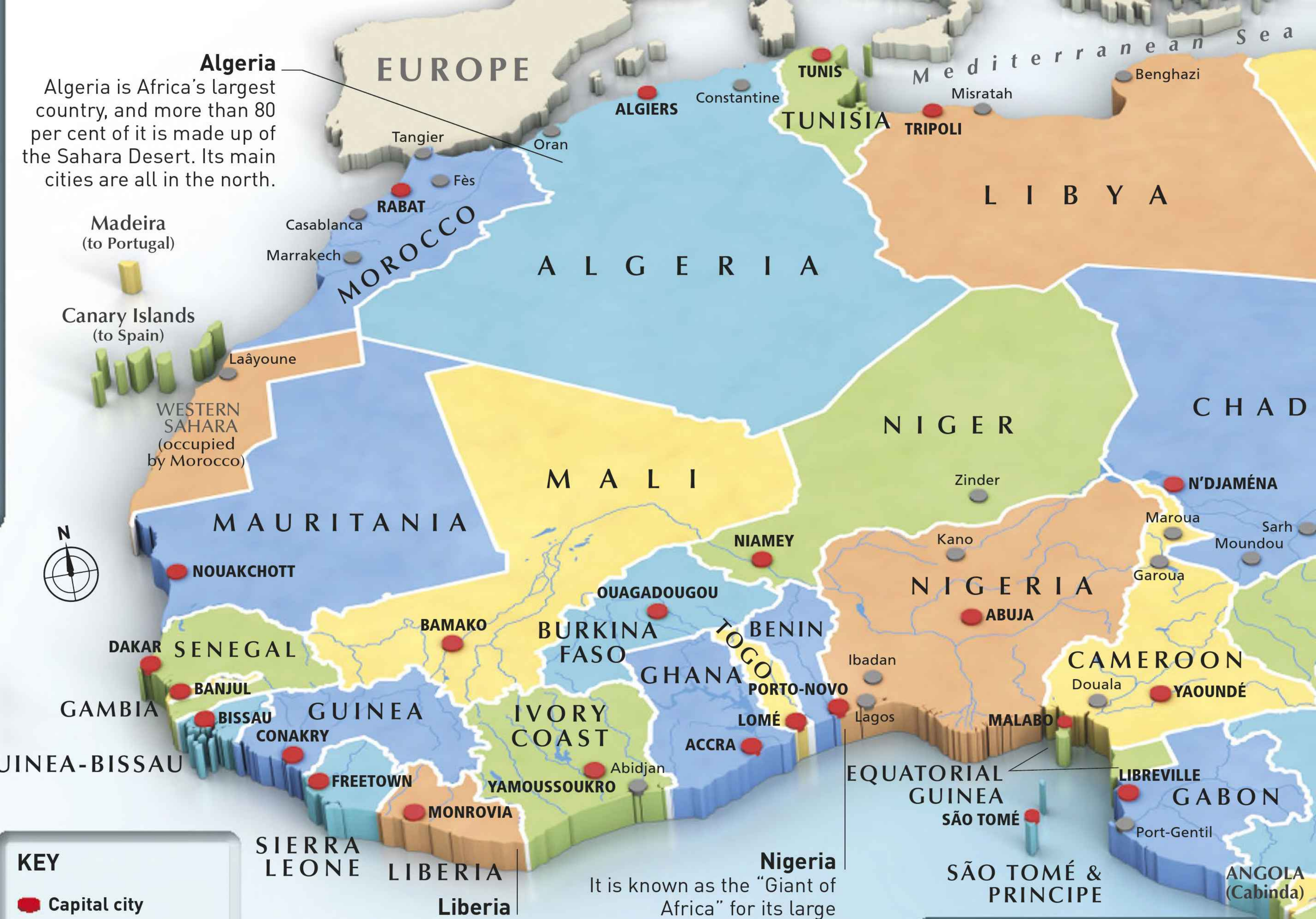
WITH ONLY FOUR PEOPLE PER SQ KM (NINE PEOPLE PER SQ MILE).

AFRICA

Africa from space
The Equator splits Africa between the northern and southern hemispheres. It is bordered by the Mediterranean, the Red Sea, and the Atlantic and Indian Oceans.

Countries and borders

Africa's different kingdoms were brutally split up between European nations in the 19th century. After World War Two, struggle for independence, as well as civil wars, created new nations, re-drawn borders, and disputed territories.


EUROPE
Mediterranean Sea
Tangier
Oran
ALGIERS
Constantine
TUNIS
TUNISIA
Misratah
TRIPOLI
Benghazi
LIBYA
Fès
RABAT
Casablanca
Marrakech
MOROCCO
ALGERIA
Madeira (to Portugal)
Canary Islands (to Spain)
Laâyoune
WESTERN SAHARA (occupied by Morocco)
MALI
NIGER
CHAD
Zinder
N'DJAMÉNA
MAURITANIA
N
NOUAKCHOTT
NIAMEY
Kano
Maroua
Sarh
Moundou
Garoua
NIGERIA
ABUJA
OUAGADOUGOU
BURKINA FASO
BAMAKO
DAKAR
SENEGAL
BANJUL
GAMBIA
BISSAU
GUINEA-BISSAU
CONAKRY
GUINEA
FREETOWN
SIERRA LEONE
MONROVIA
LIBERIA
IVORY COAST
Abidjan
YAMOUSSOUKRO
GHANA
ACCRA
TOGO
LOMÉ
BENIN
PORTO-NOVO
Ibadan
Lagos
CAMEROON
Douala
YAOUNDÉ
MALABO
EQUATORIAL GUINEA
SÃO TOMÉ
SÃO TOMÉ & PRINCIPE
LIBREVILLE
GABON
Port-Gentil
ANGOLA (Cabinda)
ATLANTIC OCEAN

Algeria
Algeria is Africa's largest country, and more than 80 per cent of it is made up of the Sahara Desert. Its main cities are all in the north.

Liberia
Claiming independence as early as 1847, it became a new home to many African-American former slaves.

Nigeria
It is known as the "Giant of Africa" for its large population (186 million) and booming economy (the 20th largest in the world).

KEY
🟥 Capital city
● Major city

FAST FACTS

Total land area:
30,335,000 sq km (11,712,409 sq miles)

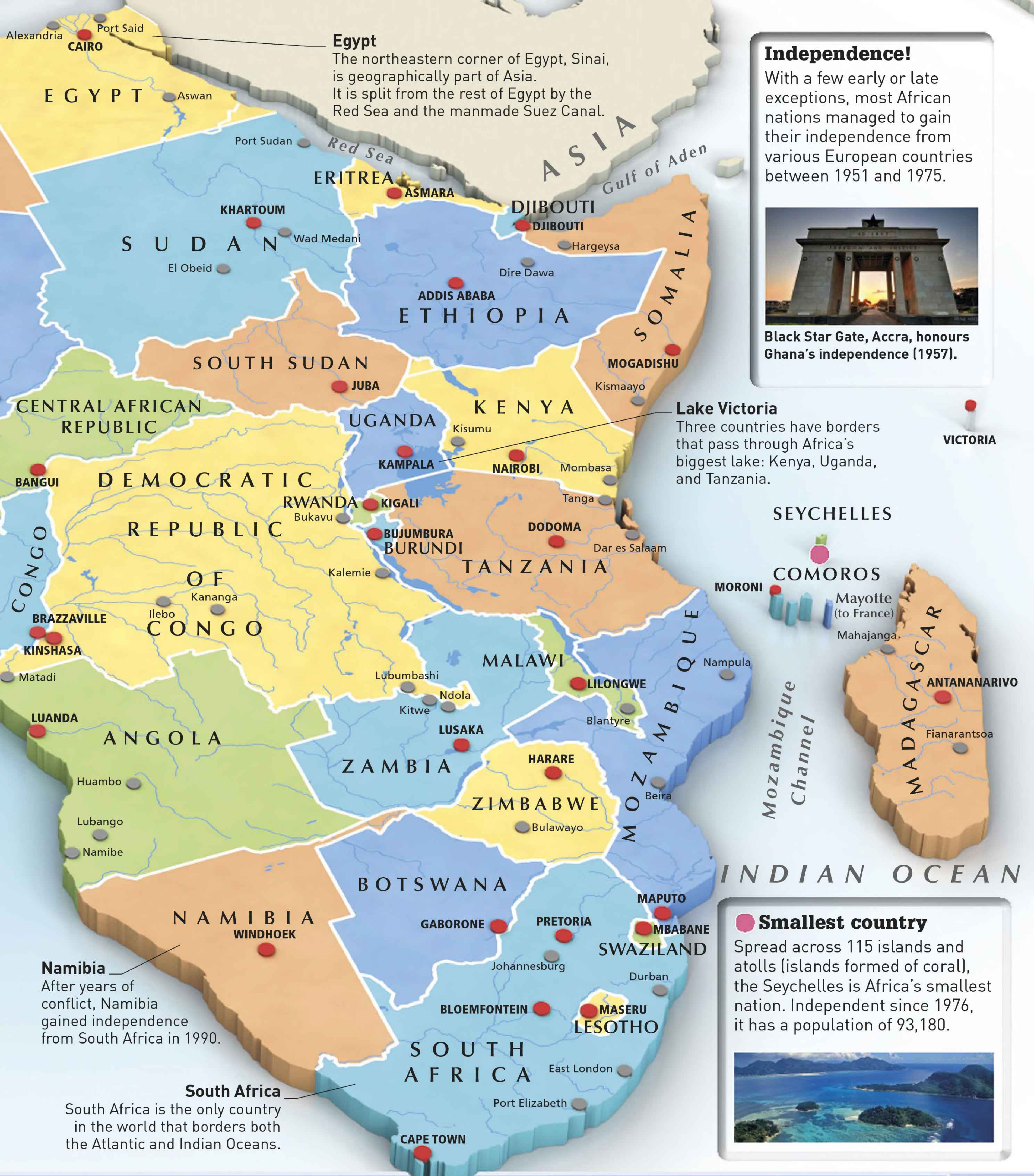
Total population:
1.1 billion

Number of countries: 54

Largest country:
Algeria – 2,381,741 sq km (919,595 sq miles)

Smallest country:
Seychelles – 455 sq km (176 sq miles)

Largest country population:
Nigeria – 186 million


Alexandria
Port Said
CAIRO
EGYPT
Aswan
Port Sudan
Red Sea
ASIA
Gulf of Aden
ERITREA
ASMARA
KHARTOUM
SUDAN
Wad Medani
El Obeid
DJIBOUTI
DJIBOUTI
Hargeysa
Dire Dawa
ADDIS ABABA
ETHIOPIA
SOMALIA
MOGADISHU
Kismaayo
SOUTH SUDAN
JUBA
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
BANGUI
UGANDA
KAMPALA
Kisumu
KENYA
NAIROBI
Mombasa
VICTORIA
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO
RWANDA
KIGALI
Bukavu
BUJUMBURA
BURUNDI
Tanga
DODOMA
Dar es Salaam
TANZANIA
SEYCHELLES
Kalemie
CONGO
Kananga
Ilebo
BRAZZAVILLE
KINSHASA
Matadi
COMOROS
MORONI
Mayotte
(to France)
Mahajanga
MADAGASCAR
ANTANANARIVO
Fianarantsoa
MALAWI
LILONGWE
Nampula
Blantyre
MOZAMBIQUE
Lubumbashi
Ndola
Kitwe
LUSAKA
ZAMBIA
LUANDA
ANGOLA
Huambo
Lubango
Namibe
HARARE
ZIMBABWE
Beira
Bulawayo
Mozambique Channel
INDIAN OCEAN
BOTSWANA
MAPUTO
MBABANE
SWAZILAND
NAMIBIA
WINDHOEK
GABORONE
PRETORIA
Johannesburg
Durban
BLOEMFONTEIN
MASERU
LESOTHO
SOUTH AFRICA
East London
Port Elizabeth
CAPE TOWN

Egypt
The northeastern corner of Egypt, Sinai, is geographically part of Asia. It is split from the rest of Egypt by the Red Sea and the manmade Suez Canal.

Independence!

With a few early or late exceptions, most African nations managed to gain their independence from various European countries between 1951 and 1975.

Black Star Gate, Accra, honours Ghana's independence (1957).

Lake Victoria
Three countries have borders that pass through Africa's biggest lake: Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania.

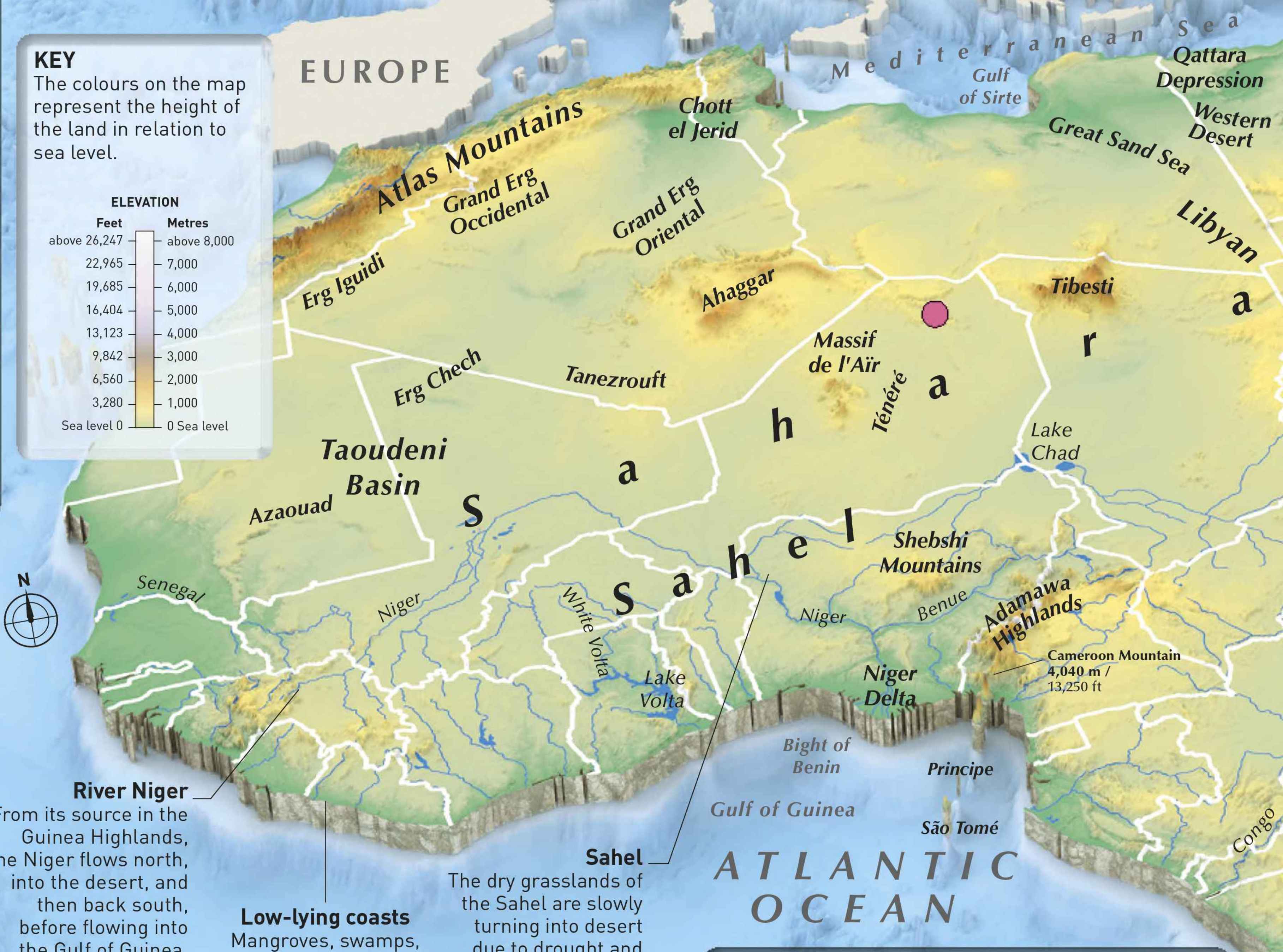
Namibia
After years of conflict, Namibia gained independence from South Africa in 1990.

South Africa
South Africa is the only country in the world that borders both the Atlantic and Indian Oceans.

● Smallest country

Spread across 115 islands and atolls (islands formed of coral), the Seychelles is Africa's smallest nation. Independent since 1976, it has a population of 93,180.

NEVER BEEN COLONIZED (RULED BY ANOTHER COUNTRY).


KEY
The colours on the map represent the height of the land in relation to sea level.
ELEVATION
Feet
Metres
above 26,247
above 8,000
22,965
7,000
19,685
6,000
16,404
5,000
13,123
4,000
9,842
3,000
6,560
2,000
3,280
1,000
Sea level 0
0 Sea level
EUROPE
Mediterranean Sea
Gulf of Sirte
Qattara Depression
Western Desert
Great Sand Sea
Libyan
Chott el Jerid
Atlas Mountains
Grand Erg Occidental
Grand Erg Oriental
Erg Iguidi
Ahaggar
Tibesti
Massif de l'Aïr
Ténéré
Tanezrouft
Erg Chech
Taoudeni Basin
Azaouad
Sahara
Lake Chad
Sahel
Shebshi Mountains
Adamawa Highlands
Cameroon Mountain 4,040 m / 13,250 ft
N
Senegal
Niger
White Volta
Lake Volta
Niger
Benue
Niger Delta
Bight of Benin
Principe
Gulf of Guinea
São Tomé
Congo
ATLANTIC OCEAN

River Niger
From its source in the Guinea Highlands, the Niger flows north, into the desert, and then back south, before flowing into the Gulf of Guinea.

Low-lying coasts
Mangroves, swamps, and sandy beaches line much of West Africa's coast.

Sahel
The dry grasslands of the Sahel are slowly turning into desert due to drought and human activity.

Landscape

Africa has many extreme landscapes. Deserts spread across the north and south, while rainforests dominate the continent's tropical central and western parts. The land rises towards the east, culminating in the Ethiopian Highlands and the Great Rift Valley region, home to Africa's largest lakes and mountains.

FAST FACTS

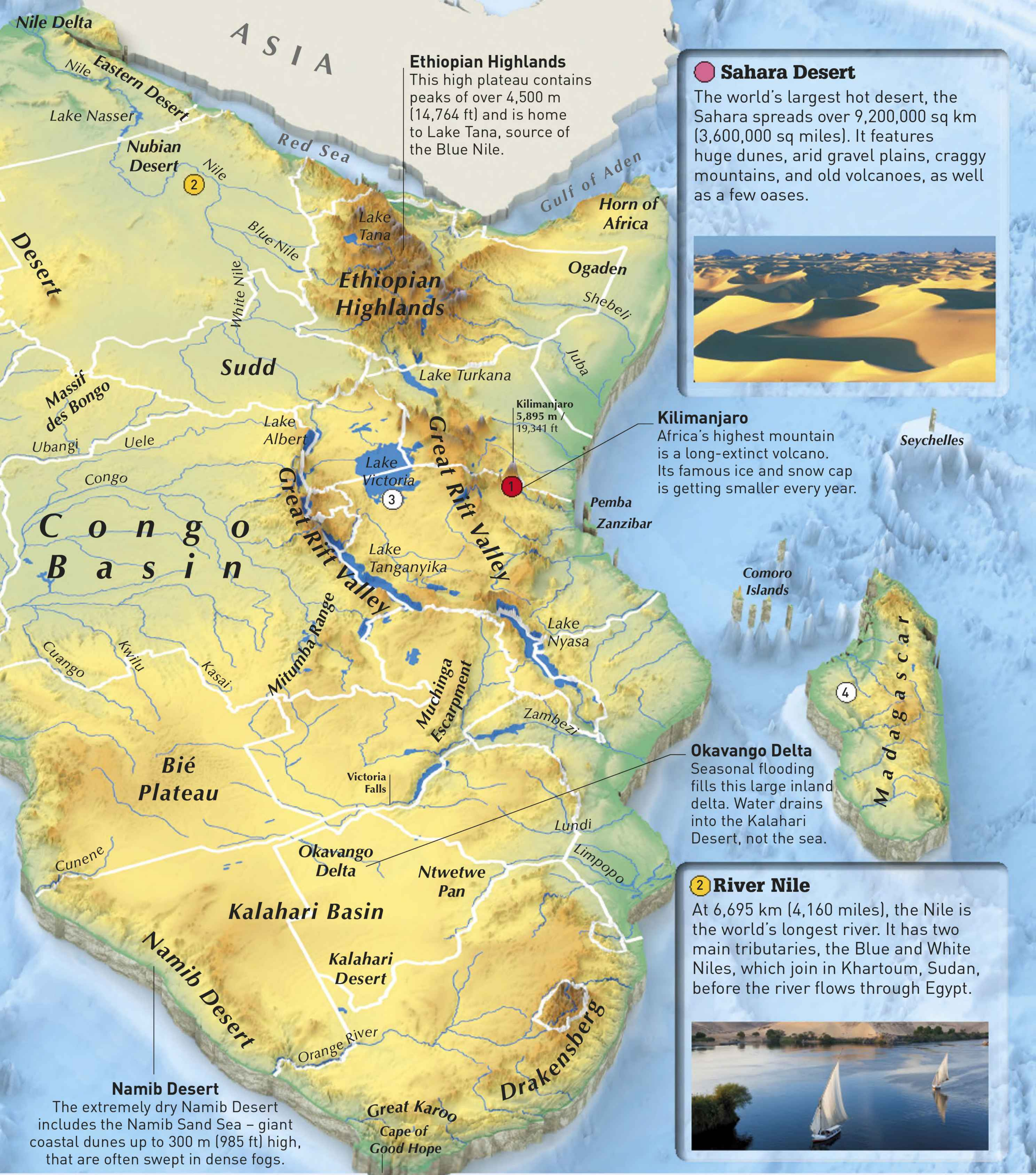
① Highest point:
Kilimanjaro – 5,895 m (19,341 ft)

② Longest river:
Nile – 6,695 km (4,160 miles)

③ Largest lake:
Lake Victoria – 69,484 sq km (26,828 sq miles)

④ Largest island:
Madagascar – 594,000 sq km (229,345 sq miles)

THE CONGO BASIN, DRAINED BY THE CONGO RIVER, CONTAINS THE


Nile Delta
A S I A
Nile
Eastern Desert
Lake Nasser
Red Sea
Nubian Desert
Nile
2
Gulf of Aden
Horn of Africa
Lake Tana
Blue Nile
Desert
Ethiopian Highlands
Ogaden
White Nile
Shebeli
Juba
Sudd
Lake Turkana
Kilimanjaro 5,895 m / 19,341 ft
Massif des Bongo
Lake Albert
Ubangi
Uele
Lake Victoria
1
Seychelles
Congo
3
Great Rift Valley
Great Rift Valley
Pemba
Zanzibar
Congo Basin
Lake Tanganyika
Comoro Islands
Lake Nyasa
Mitumba Range
Cuango
Kwilu
Kasai
Muchinga Escarpment
4
Madagascar
Zambezi
Bié Plateau
Victoria Falls
Lundi
Limpopo
Cunene
Okavango Delta
Ntwetwe Pan
Kalahari Basin
Kalahari Desert
Namib Desert
Orange River
Drakensberg
Great Karoo
Cape of Good Hope

Ethiopian Highlands
This high plateau contains peaks of over 4,500 m (14,764 ft) and is home to Lake Tana, source of the Blue Nile.

● Sahara Desert

The world's largest hot desert, the Sahara spreads over 9,200,000 sq km (3,600,000 sq miles). It features huge dunes, arid gravel plains, craggy mountains, and old volcanoes, as well as a few oases.

Kilimanjaro
Africa's highest mountain is a long-extinct volcano. Its famous ice and snow cap is getting smaller every year.

Okavango Delta
Seasonal flooding fills this large inland delta. Water drains into the Kalahari Desert, not the sea.

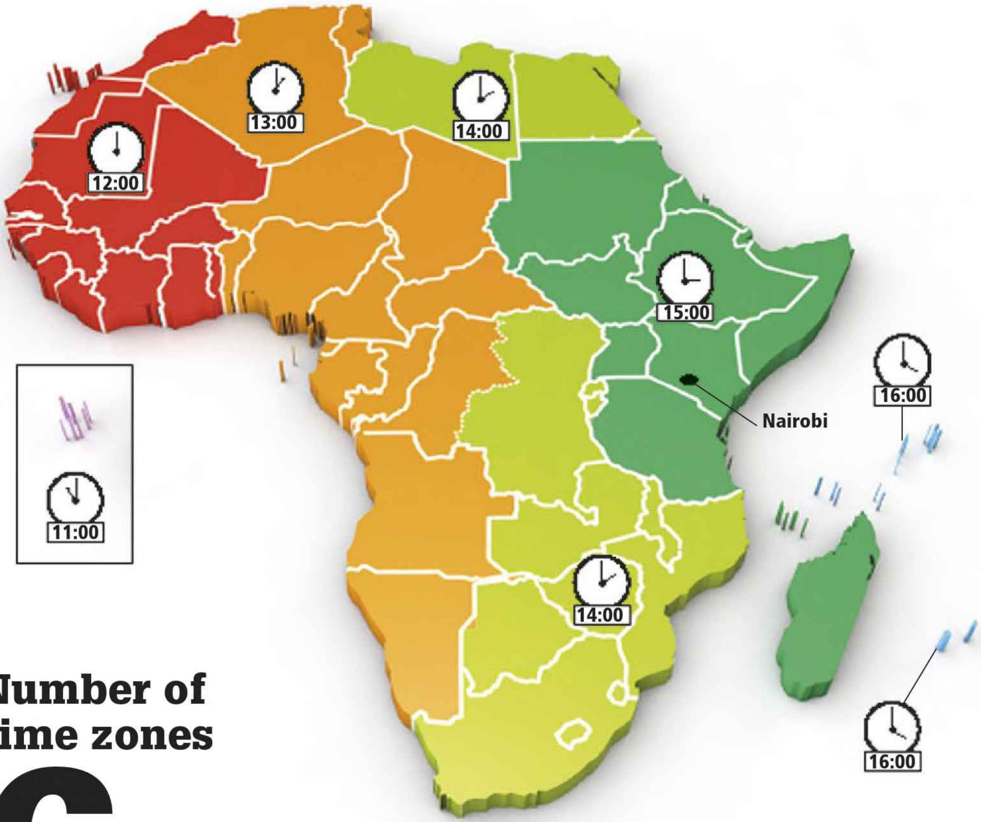
② River Nile

At 6,695 km (4,160 miles), the Nile is the world's longest river. It has two main tributaries, the Blue and White Niles, which join in Khartoum, Sudan, before the river flows through Egypt.

Namib Desert
The extremely dry Namib Desert includes the Namib Sand Sea – giant coastal dunes up to 300 m (985 ft) high, that are often swept in dense fogs.

WORLD'S SECOND-LARGEST TROPICAL RAINFOREST AFTER THE AMAZON.

Fascinating facts



Number of time zones

6

The world is split into 39 time zones. Most are set whole hours ahead or behind Coordinated Universal Time (UCT) – the time at the Greenwich Meridian in London, UK. Some, however, are whole hours plus 30 or 45 minutes ahead or behind UCT. Therefore, on this map, if it was 12:00 in London, it would be 15:00 in Nairobi, Kenya (3 hours ahead of UCT).

COUNTRIES WITH THE MOST NEIGHBOURS

Tanzania (8)

Burundi, **Democratic Republic of Congo**, Kenya, **Malawi**, Mozambique, **Rwanda**, Uganda, **Zambia**

Zambia (8)

Angola, **Botswana,** Democratic Republic of Congo, **Malawi**, Mozambique, **Namibia**, Tanzania, **Zimbabwe**

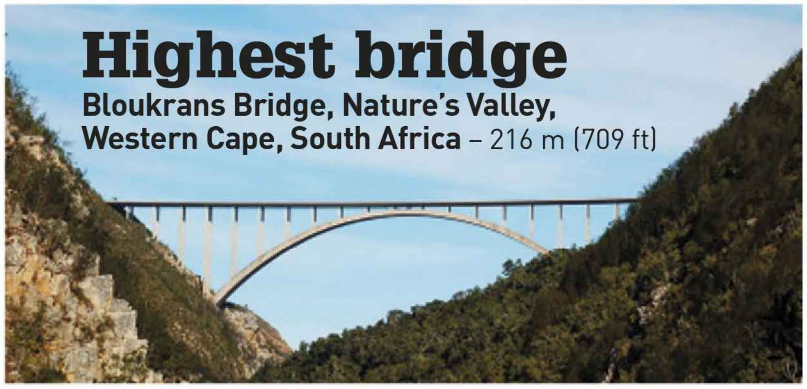
LONGEST BRIDGE

6th October Bridge, **Cairo**, **Egypt** – 20.5 km (12.7 miles)

---

16 LANDLOCKED COUNTRIES

Botswana ▪ **Burkina Faso** ▪ Burundi ▪ **Central African Republic** ▪ Chad ▪ **Ethiopia** ▪ Lesotho ▪ **Malawi** ▪ Mali ▪ **Niger** ▪ Rwanda ▪ **South Sudan** ▪ Swaziland ▪ **Uganda** ▪ Zambia ▪ **Zimbabwe**



Highest bridge

Bloukrans Bridge, Nature's Valley, Western Cape, South Africa – 216 m (709 ft)

Number of languages spoken more than **2,000**

LAKES

● Largest: **Lake Victoria**, Uganda / Tanzania / Kenya – 69,484 sq km (26,828 sq miles)

Deepest: **Lake Tanganyika**, Burundi / Democratic Republic of Congo / Tanzania / Zambia – 1,470 m (4,823 ft) deep

WATERFALLS

Highest: **Tugela Falls**, South Africa – 948 m (3,110 ft)

● Largest (by volume): **Victoria Falls**, Zimbabwe / Zaire – 1,088 m³ (38,422 ft³) of water per second

---

LONGEST COASTLINE Madagascar – 4,828 km (3,000 miles)

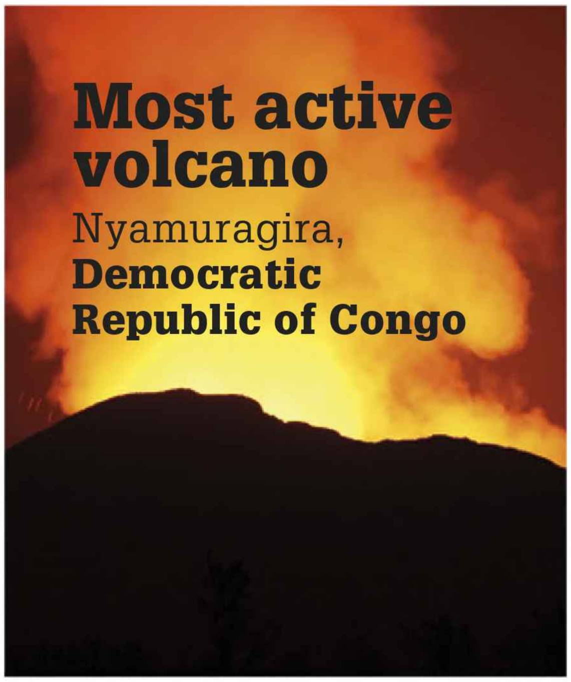
Busiest airport O.R. Tambo International, Johannesburg, South Africa – **19.164 million passengers per year**

Longest railway line
The Blue Train, Pretoria–Cape Town, South Africa – 1,600 km (994 miles)

Longest metro system
Cairo Metro, Egypt – 78 km (48 miles)

Most visited cities

- **Johannesburg, S. Africa** 3.6 million
- **Cairo, Egypt** 1.5 million
- **Cape Town, S. Africa** 1.4 million
- **Casablanca, Morocco** 1.1 million
- **Durban, S. Africa** 0.8 million



Most active volcano

Nyamuragira, **Democratic Republic of Congo**

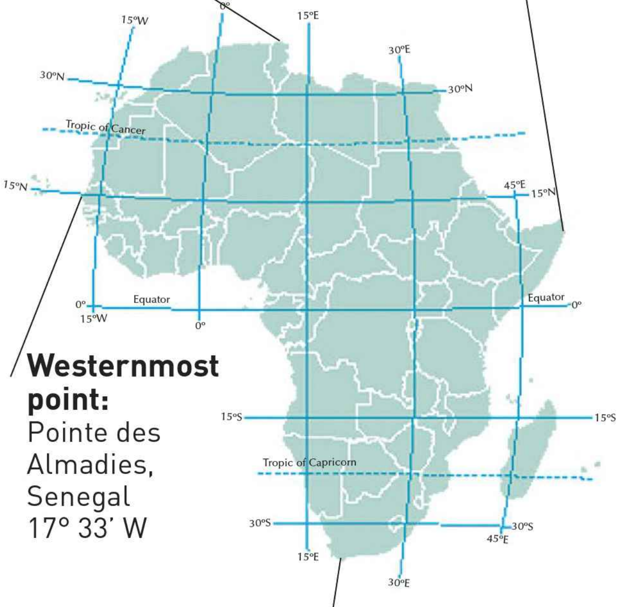
LOWEST POINT

Lake 'Assal, Djibouti – 156 m (512 ft) below sea level

AFRICA'S EXTREME POINTS

Northernmost point:
Jalta, Tunisia
37° 31′ N

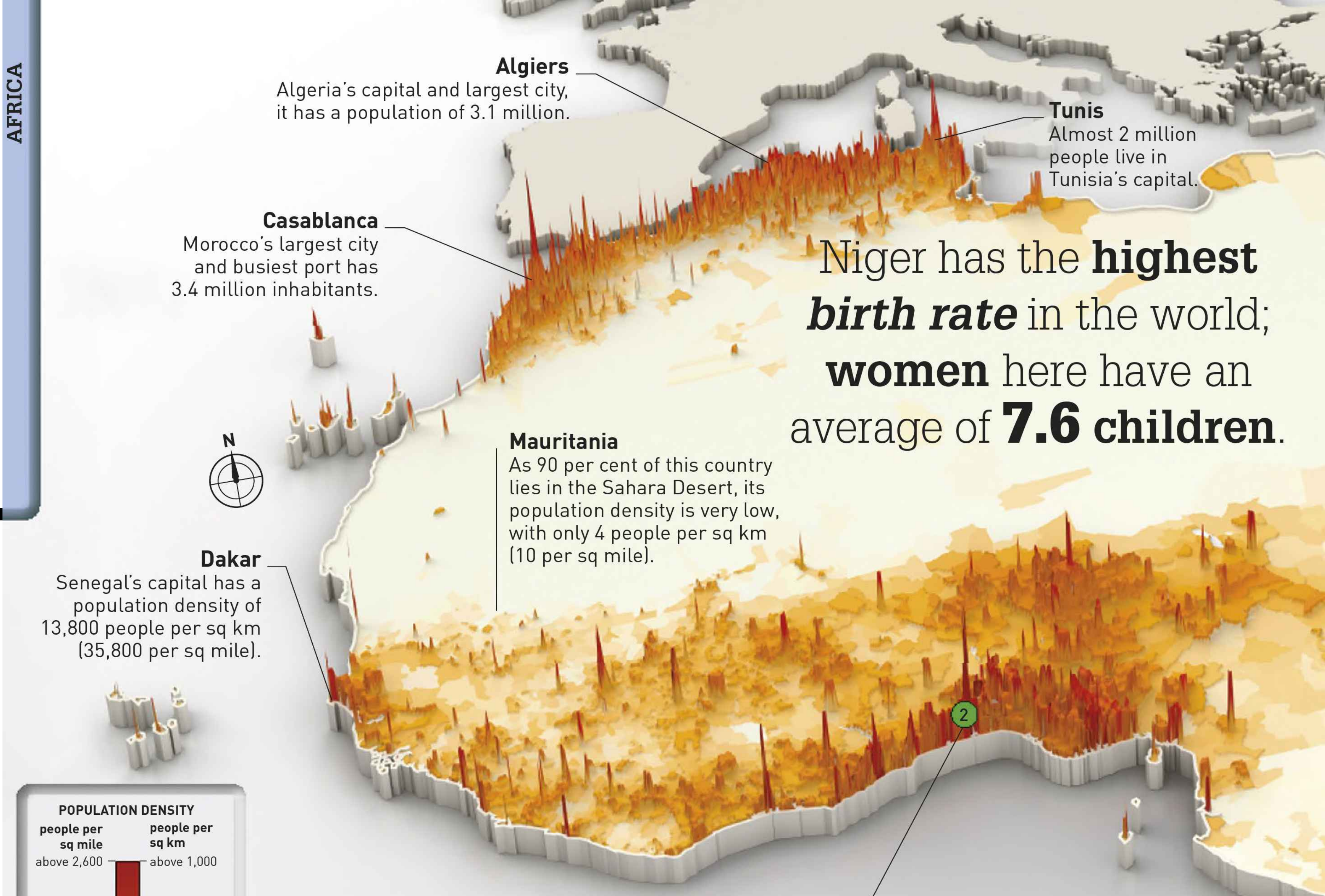
Easternmost point:
Raas Xaafuun, Somalia
51° 24′ E



Westernmost point:
Pointe des Almadies, Senegal
17° 33′ W

Southernmost point:
Cape Agulhas, South Africa
34° 52′ S

https://sanet.st/blogs/polatebooks/



Algiers
Algeria's capital and largest city, it has a population of 3.1 million.

Tunis
Almost 2 million people live in Tunisia's capital.

Casablanca
Morocco's largest city and busiest port has 3.4 million inhabitants.

Niger has the **highest *birth rate*** in the world; **women** here have an average of **7.6 children**.

Mauritania
As 90 per cent of this country lies in the Sahara Desert, its population density is very low, with only 4 people per sq km (10 per sq mile).

Dakar
Senegal's capital has a population density of 13,800 people per sq km (35,800 per sq mile).

POPULATION DENSITY

people per sq mile	people per sq km
above 2,600	above 1,000
1,950	750
1,300	500
650	250
260	100
130	50

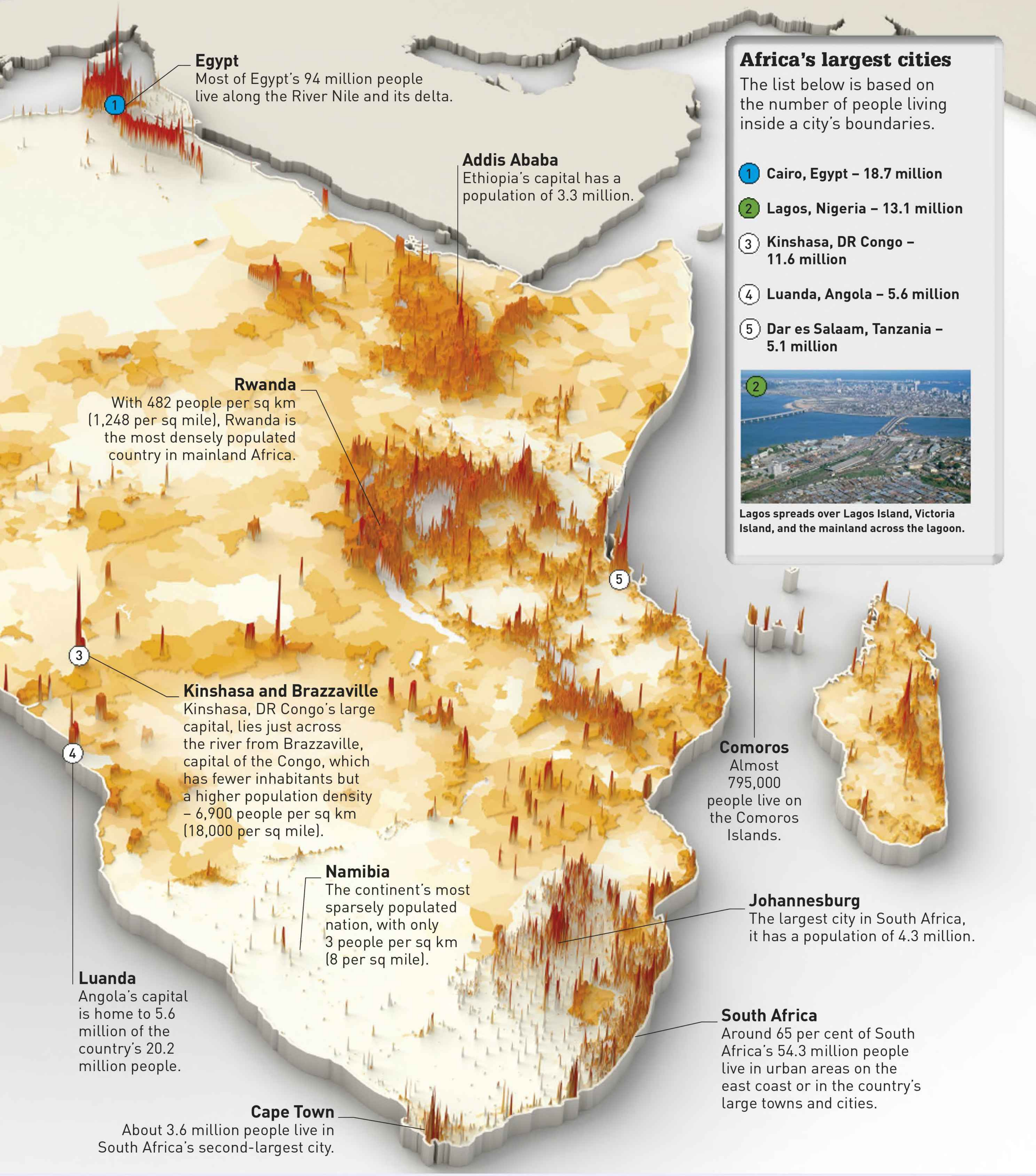
KEY
The colours represent the number of people living per square kilometre/square mile.

Lagos
Nigeria's largest city has a population of 13.1 million. A further 8 million live in the area surrounding the city.

Population

Africa, the birthplace of our earliest human ancestors, is the second-most populous continent in the world (after Asia). But because the continent is so large, its average population density is low – only half that of Europe. In reality, some regions are very crowded, while others, like the Sahara, are almost deserted.

① Cairo, Egypt
Founded in ancient times and Egypt's capital since 1168, Cairo is Africa's largest city, with 18.7 million inhabitants. Greater Cairo sprawls in all directions, and includes the famous pyramids at Giza.



Egypt
Most of Egypt's 94 million people live along the River Nile and its delta.

Addis Ababa
Ethiopia's capital has a population of 3.3 million.

Rwanda
With 482 people per sq km (1,248 per sq mile), Rwanda is the most densely populated country in mainland Africa.

Kinshasa and Brazzaville
Kinshasa, DR Congo's large capital, lies just across the river from Brazzaville, capital of the Congo, which has fewer inhabitants but a higher population density – 6,900 people per sq km (18,000 per sq mile).

Namibia
The continent's most sparsely populated nation, with only 3 people per sq km (8 per sq mile).

Luanda
Angola's capital is home to 5.6 million of the country's 20.2 million people.

Cape Town
About 3.6 million people live in South Africa's second-largest city.

Comoros
Almost 795,000 people live on the Comoros Islands.

Johannesburg
The largest city in South Africa, it has a population of 4.3 million.

South Africa
Around 65 per cent of South Africa's 54.3 million people live in urban areas on the east coast or in the country's large towns and cities.

Africa's largest cities

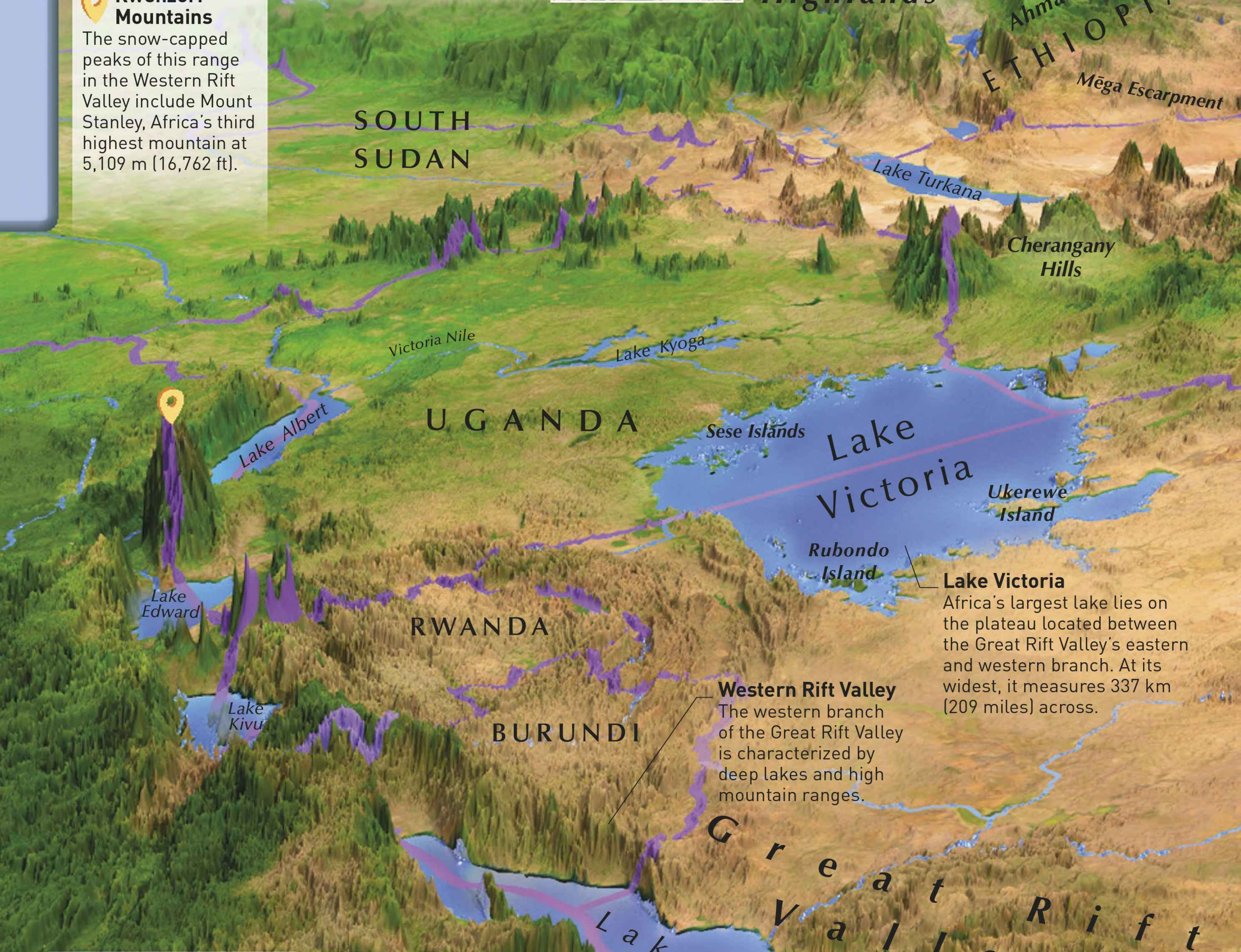
The list below is based on the number of people living inside a city's boundaries.

- ① **Cairo, Egypt – 18.7 million**
- ② **Lagos, Nigeria – 13.1 million**
- ③ **Kinshasa, DR Congo – 11.6 million**
- ④ **Luanda, Angola – 5.6 million**
- ⑤ **Dar es Salaam, Tanzania – 5.1 million**

Lagos spreads over Lagos Island, Victoria Island, and the mainland across the lagoon.

Rwenzori Mountains
The snow-capped peaks of this range in the Western Rift Valley include Mount Stanley, Africa's third highest mountain at 5,109 m (16,762 ft).

Red Sea
Formed when the African and Arabian plates split apart, and still widening, this salty sea can reach over 30°C (86°F). Its coral reefs are teeming with fish.


Ethiopian Highlands
Ahmar Mountains
ETHIOPIA
Mēga Escarpment
SOUTH SUDAN
Lake Turkana
Cherangany Hills
Victoria Nile
Lake Kyoga
Lake Albert
UGANDA
Sese Islands
Lake Victoria
Ukerewe Island
Rubondo Island
Lake Edward
RWANDA
Lake Kivu
BURUNDI
Great Rift Valley
Lake Tanganyika

Lake Victoria
Africa's largest lake lies on the plateau located between the Great Rift Valley's eastern and western branch. At its widest, it measures 337 km (209 miles) across.

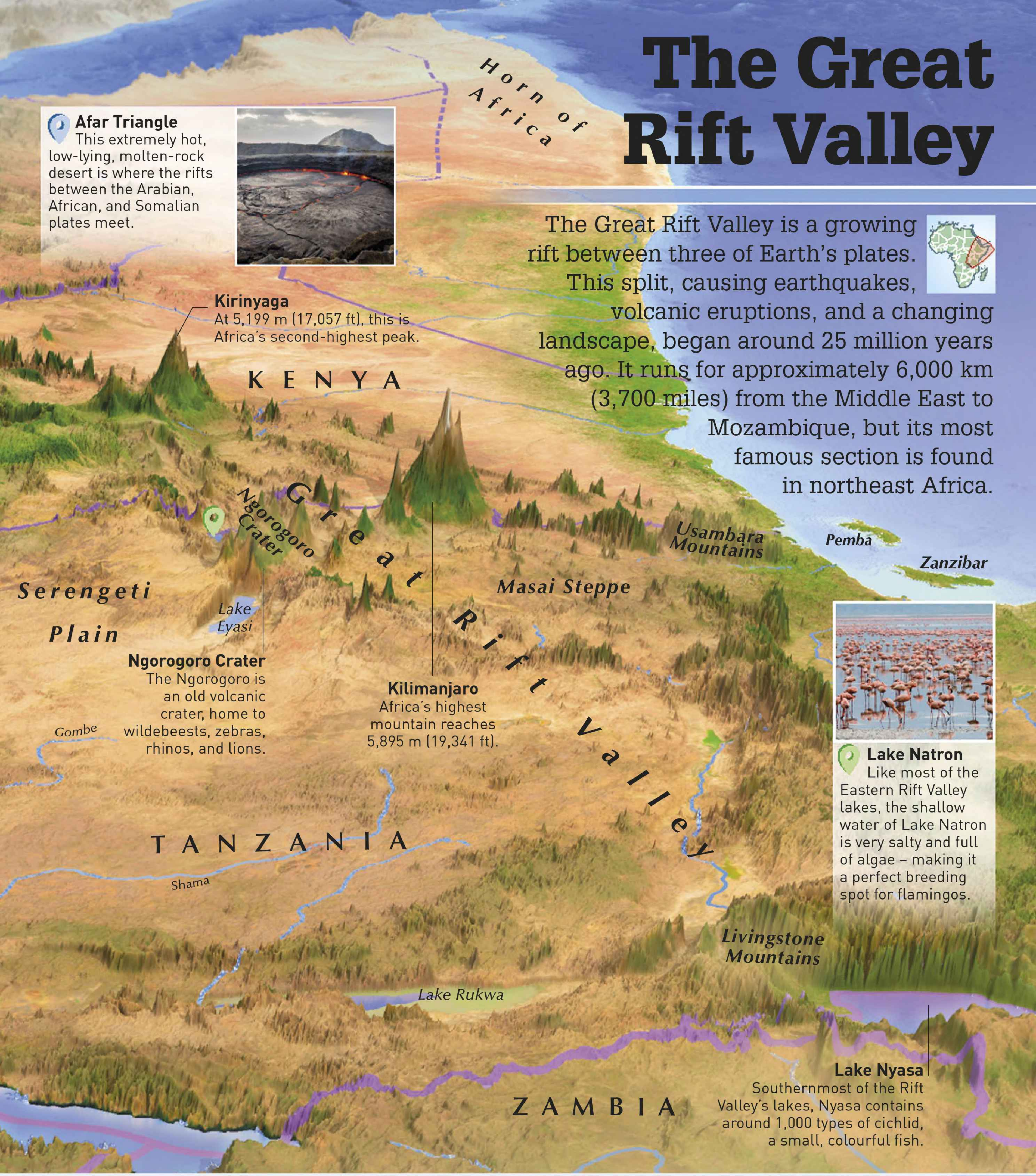
Western Rift Valley
The western branch of the Great Rift Valley is characterized by deep lakes and high mountain ranges.

Lake Tanganyika
The longest of the Rift Valley's many lakes, Tanganyika is, at 1,436 m (4,710 ft) deep, also the world's second deepest (after Lake Baikal).

IN THE FUTURE, THE LAND EAST OF THE RIFT WILL FORM A NEW

The Great Rift Valley

The Great Rift Valley is a growing rift between three of Earth's plates. This split, causing earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and a changing landscape, began around 25 million years ago. It runs for approximately 6,000 km (3,700 miles) from the Middle East to Mozambique, but its most famous section is found in northeast Africa.



Afar Triangle This extremely hot, low-lying, molten-rock desert is where the rifts between the Arabian, African, and Somalian plates meet.

Kirinyaga At 5,199 m (17,057 ft), this is Africa's second-highest peak.

Ngorogoro Crater The Ngorogoro is an old volcanic crater, home to wildebeests, zebras, rhinos, and lions.

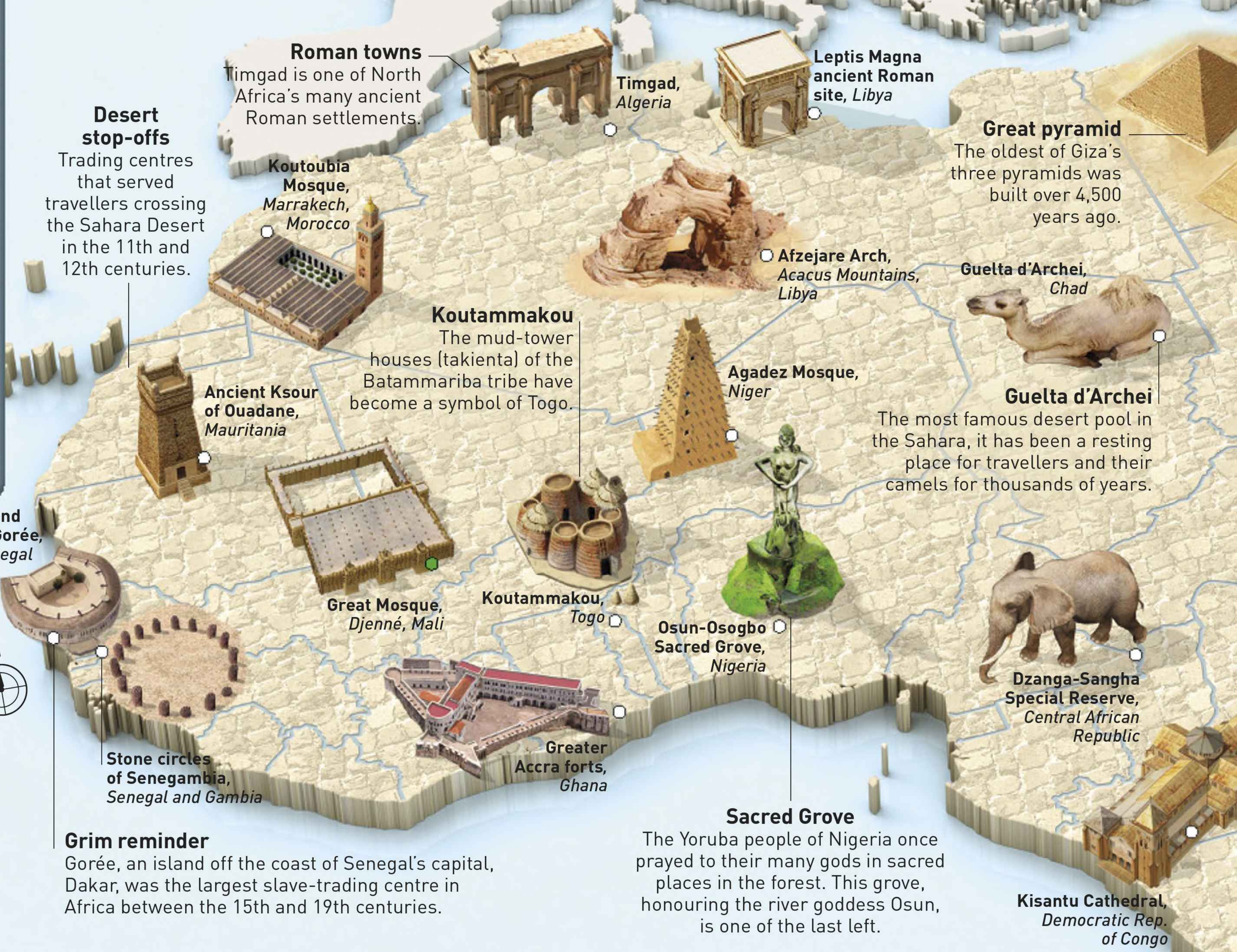
Kilimanjaro Africa's highest mountain reaches 5,895 m (19,341 ft).

Lake Natron Like most of the Eastern Rift Valley lakes, the shallow water of Lake Natron is very salty and full of algae – making it a perfect breeding spot for flamingos.

Lake Nyasa Southernmost of the Rift Valley's lakes, Nyasa contains around 1,000 types of cichlid, a small, colourful fish.

Horn of Africa
KENYA
Great Rift Valley
Ngorogoro Crater
Serengeti Plain
Lake Eyasi
Usambara Mountains
Pemba
Zanzibar
Masai Steppe
Gombe
TANZANIA
Shama
Livingstone Mountains
Lake Rukwa
ZAMBIA

CONTINENT AS THE SPLIT GETS GREATER AND FINALLY BREAKS IT OFF.


Timgad, *Algeria*
Leptis Magna ancient Roman site, *Libya*
Koutoubia Mosque, *Marrakech, Morocco*
Afzejare Arch, *Acacus Mountains, Libya*
Guelta d'Archei, *Chad*
Agadez Mosque, *Niger*
Ancient Ksour of Ouadane, *Mauritania*
Island of Gorée, *Senegal*
Great Mosque, *Djenné, Mali*
Koutammakou, *Togo*
Osun-Osogbo Sacred Grove, *Nigeria*
Dzanga-Sangha Special Reserve, *Central African Republic*
N
Stone circles of Senegambia, *Senegal and Gambia*
Greater Accra forts, *Ghana*
Kisantu Cathedral, *Democratic Rep. of Congo*

Roman towns
Timgad is one of North Africa's many ancient Roman settlements.

Desert stop-offs
Trading centres that served travellers crossing the Sahara Desert in the 11th and 12th centuries.

Great pyramid
The oldest of Giza's three pyramids was built over 4,500 years ago.

Koutammakou
The mud-tower houses (takienta) of the Batammariba tribe have become a symbol of Togo.

Guelta d'Archei
The most famous desert pool in the Sahara, it has been a resting place for travellers and their camels for thousands of years.

Grim reminder
Gorée, an island off the coast of Senegal's capital, Dakar, was the largest slave-trading centre in Africa between the 15th and 19th centuries.

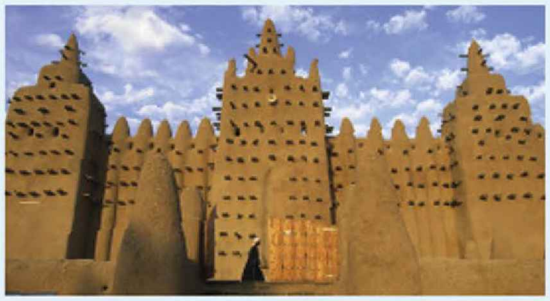
Sacred Grove
The Yoruba people of Nigeria once prayed to their many gods in sacred places in the forest. This grove, honouring the river goddess Osun, is one of the last left.

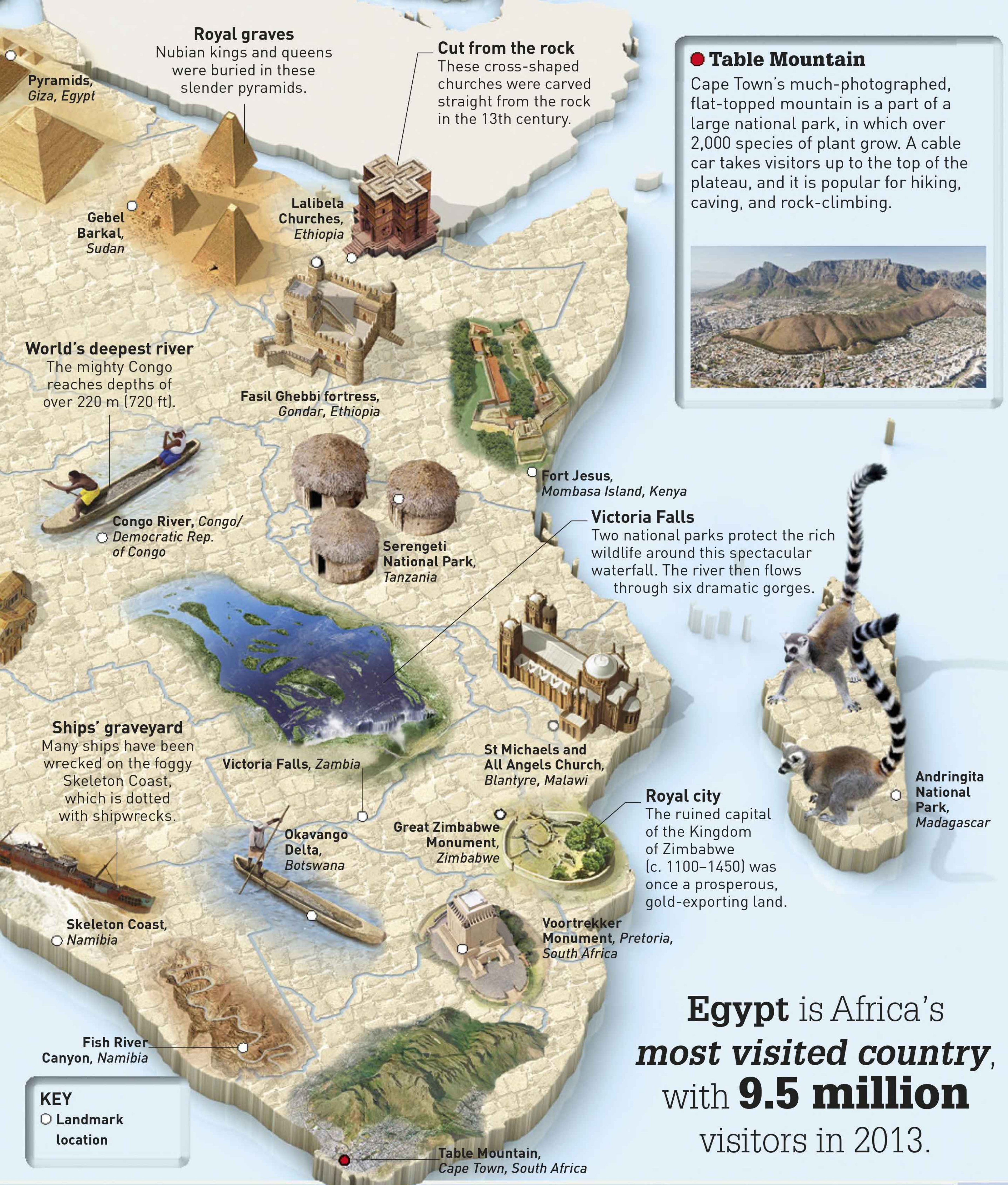
Famous landmarks

Africa boasts breathtaking natural beauty and ancient archaeological wonders. It is home to the rich wildlife of the Serengeti and the thunderous waters of Victoria Falls. And towering minarets, ancient pyramids, and monumental mud-brick architecture reflect the continent's rich cultural history.

● Great Mosque, Djenné

Djenné was one of the great cities of the rich Mali Empire, one of Africa's medieval kingdoms, and its mosque was a famous centre of learning. Built of sun-baked bricks made of sand and earth, it was reconstructed in 1907.




Pyramids, *Giza, Egypt*
Gebel Barkal, *Sudan*
Lalibela Churches, *Ethiopia*
Fasil Ghebbi fortress, *Gondar, Ethiopia*
Fort Jesus, *Mombasa Island, Kenya*
Congo River, *Congo/ Democratic Rep. of Congo*
Serengeti National Park, *Tanzania*
Victoria Falls, *Zambia*
St Michaels and All Angels Church, *Blantyre, Malawi*
Okavango Delta, *Botswana*
Great Zimbabwe Monument, *Zimbabwe*
Andringita National Park, *Madagascar*
Skeleton Coast, *Namibia*
Voortrekker Monument, *Pretoria, South Africa*
Fish River Canyon, *Namibia*
Table Mountain, *Cape Town, South Africa*

● Table Mountain

Cape Town's much-photographed, flat-topped mountain is a part of a large national park, in which over 2,000 species of plant grow. A cable car takes visitors up to the top of the plateau, and it is popular for hiking, caving, and rock-climbing.

Royal graves
Nubian kings and queens were buried in these slender pyramids.

Cut from the rock
These cross-shaped churches were carved straight from the rock in the 13th century.

World's deepest river
The mighty Congo reaches depths of over 220 m (720 ft).

Victoria Falls
Two national parks protect the rich wildlife around this spectacular waterfall. The river then flows through six dramatic gorges.

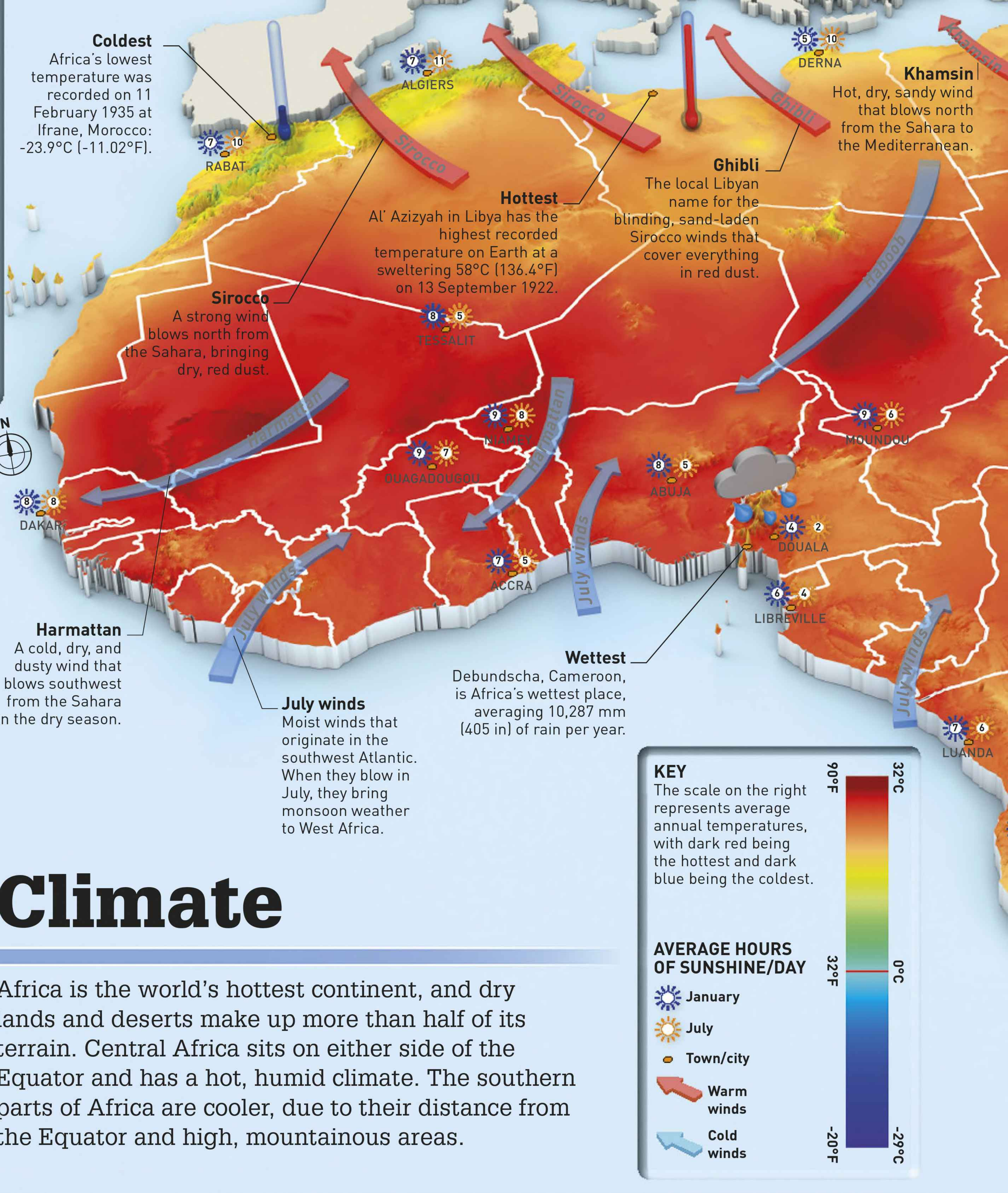
Ships' graveyard
Many ships have been wrecked on the foggy Skeleton Coast, which is dotted with shipwrecks.

Royal city
The ruined capital of the Kingdom of Zimbabwe (c. 1100–1450) was once a prosperous, gold-exporting land.

KEY
○ Landmark location

Egypt is Africa's ***most visited country***, with **9.5 million** visitors in 2013.

LONG, UP TO 27 KM (16.7 MILES) WIDE, AND 550 M (1,084 FT) DEEP.


DERNA 5 10
ALGIERS 7 11
RABAT 7 10
TESSALIT 8 5
NIAMEY 9 8
OUAGADOUGOU 9 7
DAKAR 8 8
ABUJA 8 5
MOUNDOU 9 6
DOUALA 4 2
ACCRA 7 5
LIBREVILLE 6 4
LUANDA 7 6
Sirocco
Sirocco
Ghibli
Khamsin
Haboob
Harmattan
Harmattan
July winds
July winds
July winds
90°F
32°C
32°F
0°C
-20°F
-29°C

Coldest
Africa's lowest temperature was recorded on 11 February 1935 at Ifrane, Morocco: -23.9°C (-11.02°F).

Khamsin
Hot, dry, sandy wind that blows north from the Sahara to the Mediterranean.

Hottest
Al' Azizyah in Libya has the highest recorded temperature on Earth at a sweltering 58°C (136.4°F) on 13 September 1922.

Ghibli
The local Libyan name for the blinding, sand-laden Sirocco winds that cover everything in red dust.

Sirocco
A strong wind blows north from the Sahara, bringing dry, red dust.

Harmattan
A cold, dry, and dusty wind that blows southwest from the Sahara in the dry season.

July winds
Moist winds that originate in the southwest Atlantic. When they blow in July, they bring monsoon weather to West Africa.

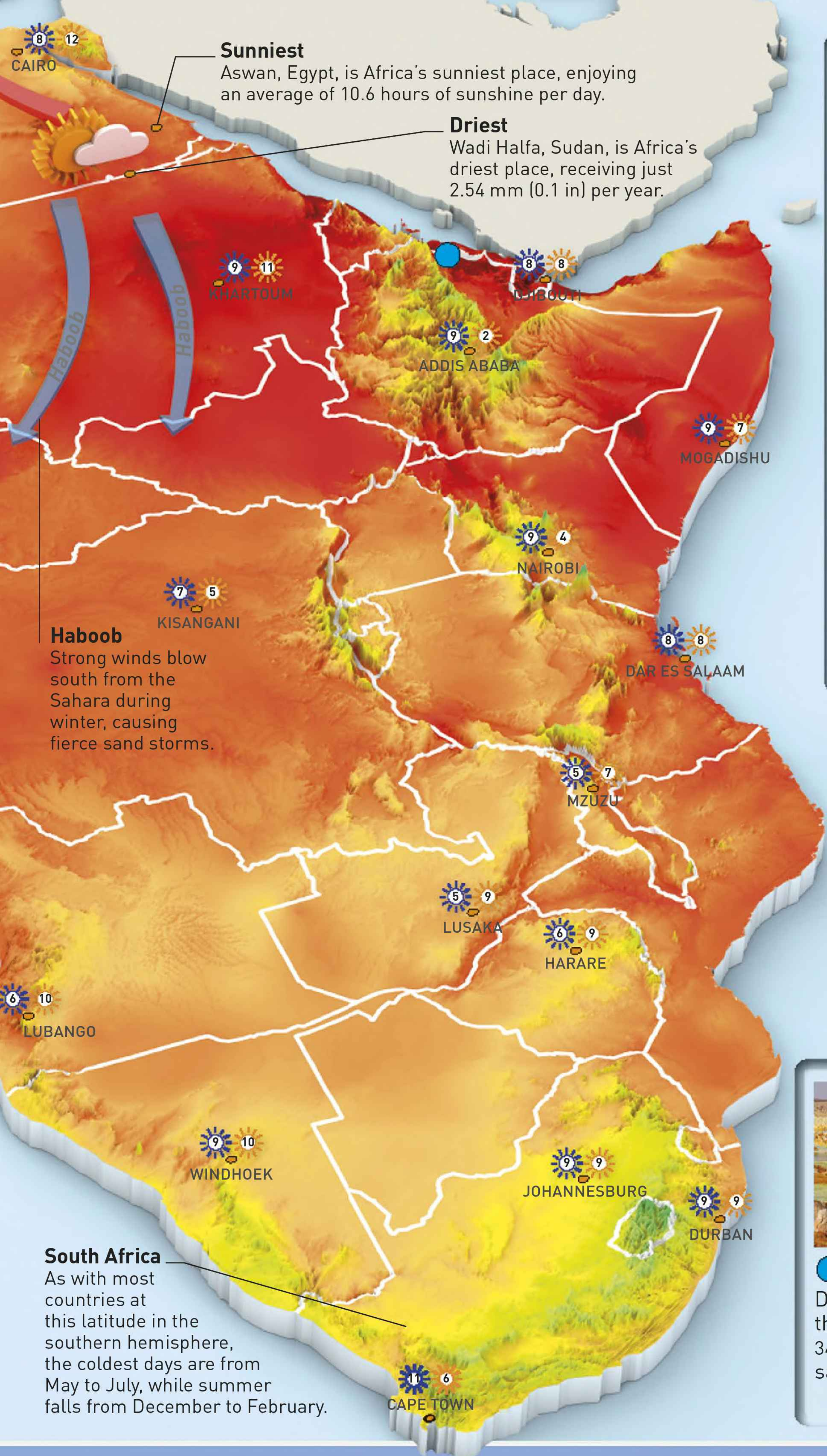
Wettest
Debundscha, Cameroon, is Africa's wettest place, averaging 10,287 mm (405 in) of rain per year.

KEY
The scale on the right represents average annual temperatures, with dark red being the hottest and dark blue being the coldest.

AVERAGE HOURS OF SUNSHINE/DAY
- January
- July
- Town/city
- Warm winds
- Cold winds

Climate

Africa is the world's hottest continent, and dry lands and deserts make up more than half of its terrain. Central Africa sits on either side of the Equator and has a hot, humid climate. The southern parts of Africa are cooler, due to their distance from the Equator and high, mountainous areas.

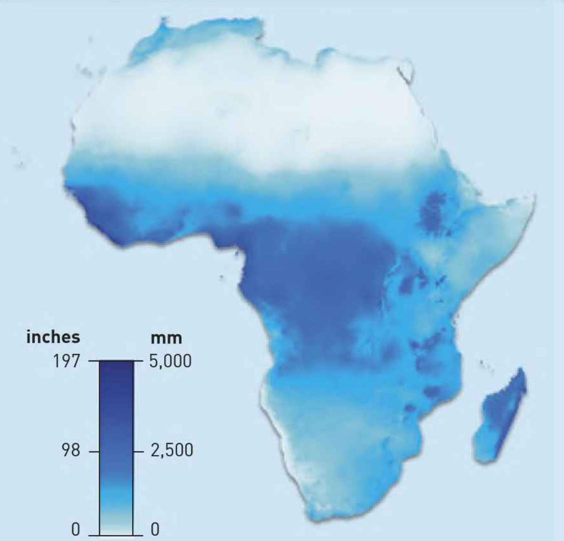

8
12
CAIRO
9
11
KHARTOUM
Haboob
Haboob
8
8
DJIBOUTI
9
2
ADDIS ABABA
9
7
MOGADISHU
9
4
NAIROBI
7
5
KISANGANI
8
8
DAR ES SALAAM
5
7
MZUZU
7
5
ANTANANARIVO
5
9
LUSAKA
6
9
HARARE
6
10
LUBANGO
9
10
WINDHOEK
9
9
JOHANNESBURG
9
9
DURBAN
11
6
CAPE TOWN

Sunniest
Aswan, Egypt, is Africa's sunniest place, enjoying an average of 10.6 hours of sunshine per day.

Driest
Wadi Halfa, Sudan, is Africa's driest place, receiving just 2.54 mm (0.1 in) per year.

Haboob
Strong winds blow south from the Sahara during winter, causing fierce sand storms.

South Africa
As with most countries at this latitude in the southern hemisphere, the coldest days are from May to July, while summer falls from December to February.


inches
mm
197
5,000
98
2,500
0
0

Average precipitation

Scarce rain in the north has helped create the Sahara Desert; the south receives very little rainfall, too. In contrast, Central Africa's rainforests are drenched in more than 4,000 mm (157.5 in) of rain per year. Snow falls in the mountains of Morocco, South Africa, and, more rarely, East Africa.

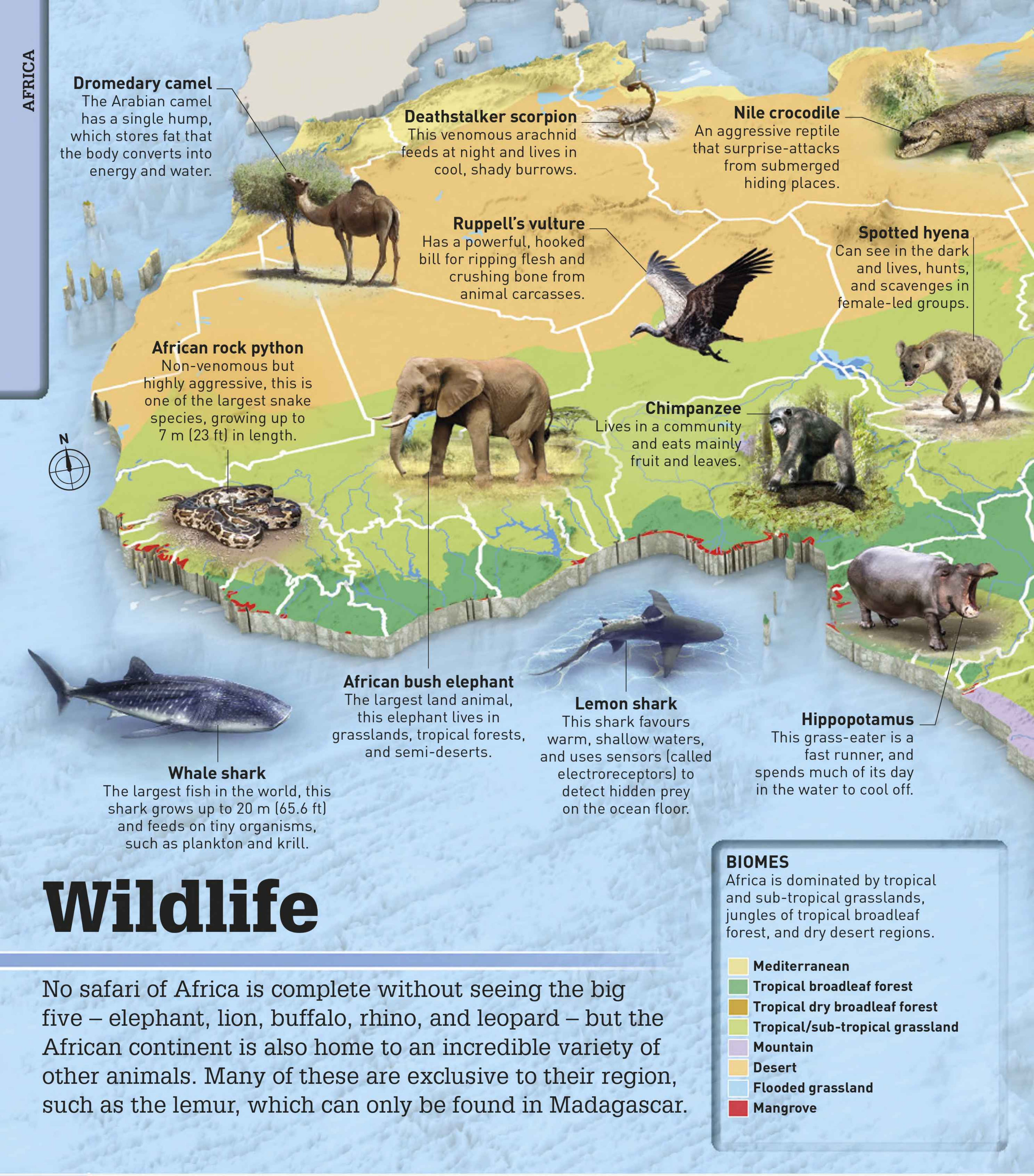
● Hot spot

Dallol, in Ethiopia's Danakil Desert, has the world's highest average temperature: 34.4°C (94°F). The area's few lakes are salt-encrusted and full of sulphur.

FAR WEST AS THE CARIBBEAN AND AS FAR NORTH AS SCOTLAND.

Wildlife

No safari of Africa is complete without seeing the big five – elephant, lion, buffalo, rhino, and leopard – but the African continent is also home to an incredible variety of other animals. Many of these are exclusive to their region, such as the lemur, which can only be found in Madagascar.



Dromedary camel
The Arabian camel has a single hump, which stores fat that the body converts into energy and water.

Deathstalker scorpion
This venomous arachnid feeds at night and lives in cool, shady burrows.

Nile crocodile
An aggressive reptile that surprise-attacks from submerged hiding places.

Ruppell's vulture
Has a powerful, hooked bill for ripping flesh and crushing bone from animal carcasses.

Spotted hyena
Can see in the dark and lives, hunts, and scavenges in female-led groups.

African rock python
Non-venomous but highly aggressive, this is one of the largest snake species, growing up to 7 m (23 ft) in length.

Chimpanzee
Lives in a community and eats mainly fruit and leaves.

African bush elephant
The largest land animal, this elephant lives in grasslands, tropical forests, and semi-deserts.

Lemon shark
This shark favours warm, shallow waters, and uses sensors (called electroreceptors) to detect hidden prey on the ocean floor.

Hippopotamus
This grass-eater is a fast runner, and spends much of its day in the water to cool off.

Whale shark
The largest fish in the world, this shark grows up to 20 m (65.6 ft) and feeds on tiny organisms, such as plankton and krill.

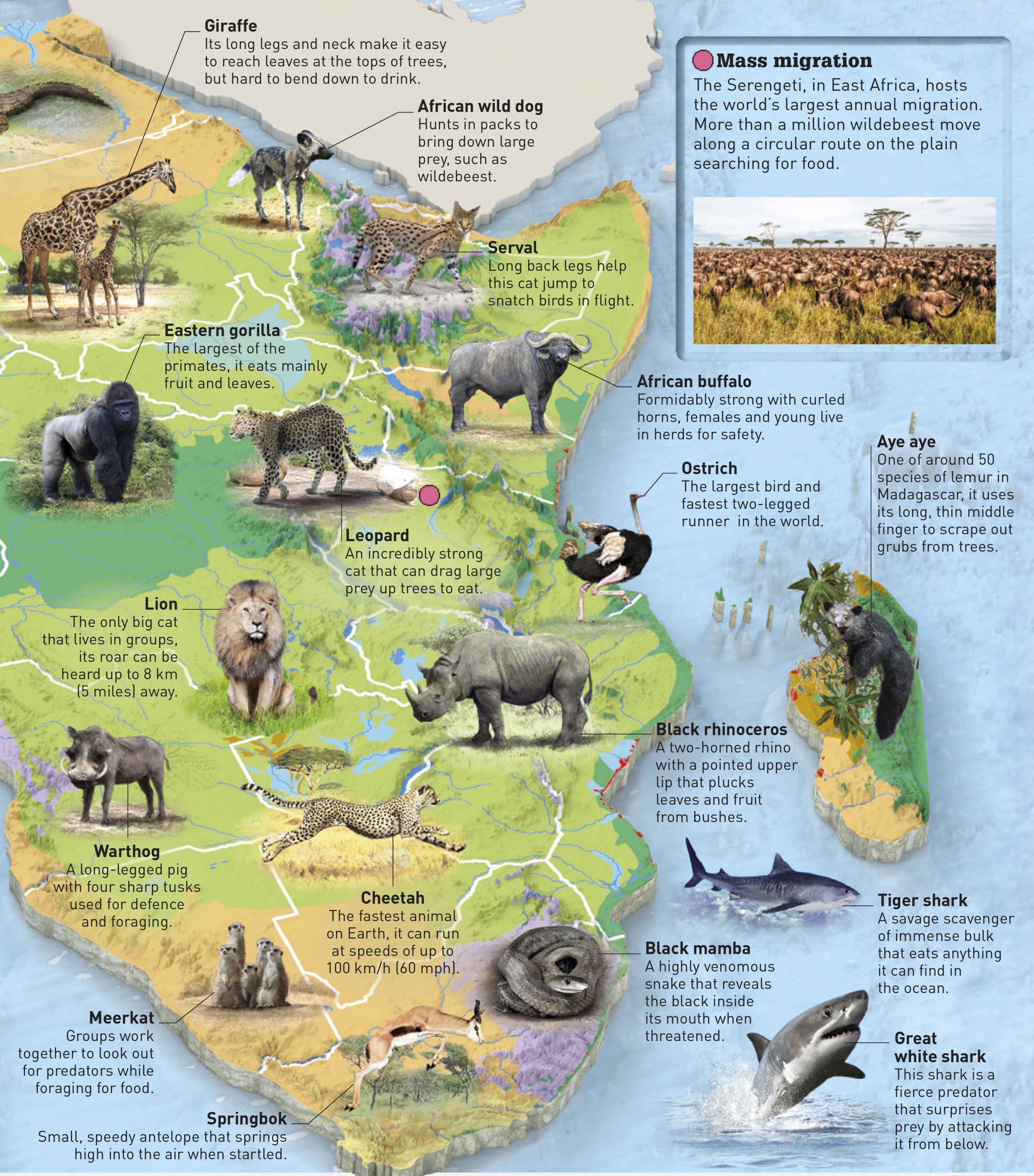
BIOMES
Africa is dominated by tropical and sub-tropical grasslands, jungles of tropical broadleaf forest, and dry desert regions.

🟨 **Mediterranean**
🟩 **Tropical broadleaf forest**
🟫 **Tropical dry broadleaf forest**
🟩 **Tropical/sub-tropical grassland**
🟪 **Mountain**
🟧 **Desert**
🟦 **Flooded grassland**
🟥 **Mangrove**

MADAGASCAR IS FAMOUS FOR ITS UNIQUE ANIMALS; 97 PER CENT OF

Mass migration

The Serengeti, in East Africa, hosts the world's largest annual migration. More than a million wildebeest move along a circular route on the plain searching for food.



Giraffe
Its long legs and neck make it easy to reach leaves at the tops of trees, but hard to bend down to drink.

African wild dog
Hunts in packs to bring down large prey, such as wildebeest.

Serval
Long back legs help this cat jump to snatch birds in flight.

Eastern gorilla
The largest of the primates, it eats mainly fruit and leaves.

African buffalo
Formidably strong with curled horns, females and young live in herds for safety.

Aye aye
One of around 50 species of lemur in Madagascar, it uses its long, thin middle finger to scrape out grubs from trees.

Ostrich
The largest bird and fastest two-legged runner in the world.

Leopard
An incredibly strong cat that can drag large prey up trees to eat.

Lion
The only big cat that lives in groups, its roar can be heard up to 8 km (5 miles) away.

Black rhinoceros
A two-horned rhino with a pointed upper lip that plucks leaves and fruit from bushes.

Warthog
A long-legged pig with four sharp tusks used for defence and foraging.

Cheetah
The fastest animal on Earth, it can run at speeds of up to 100 km/h (60 mph).

Tiger shark
A savage scavenger of immense bulk that eats anything it can find in the ocean.

Black mamba
A highly venomous snake that reveals the black inside its mouth when threatened.

Meerkat
Groups work together to look out for predators while foraging for food.

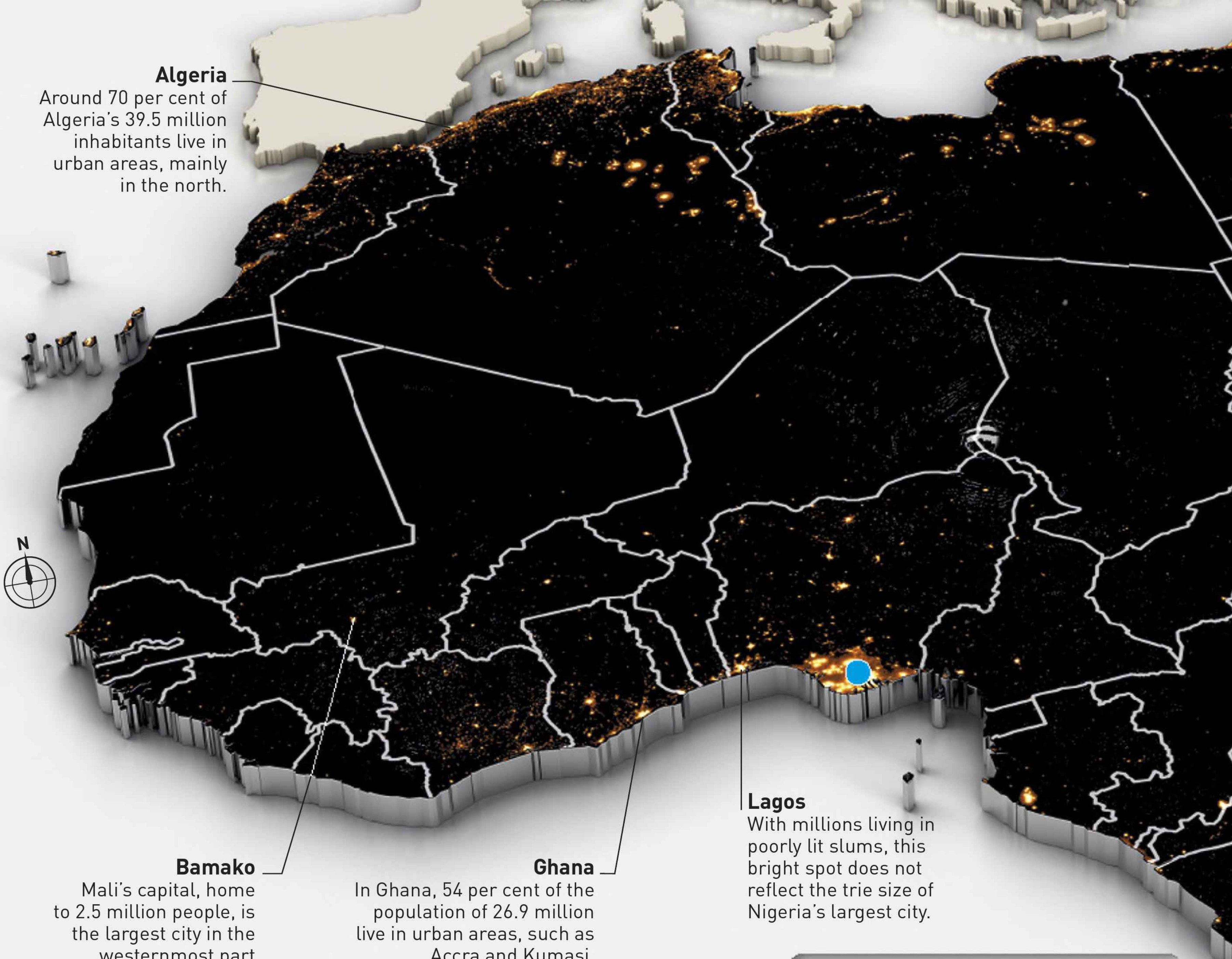
Great white shark
This shark is a fierce predator that surprises prey by attacking it from below.

Springbok
Small, speedy antelope that springs high into the air when startled.

THESE EXIST NOWHERE ELSE ON EARTH AND MANY ARE ENDANGERED.

By night

The speed at which cities grow in population is very high in Africa. But here, not all densely populated places show up at night – poorer areas do not have street lights, lit-up shop windows, or even electric indoor lights. Most dark areas, however, are desert, jungle, or savannah.



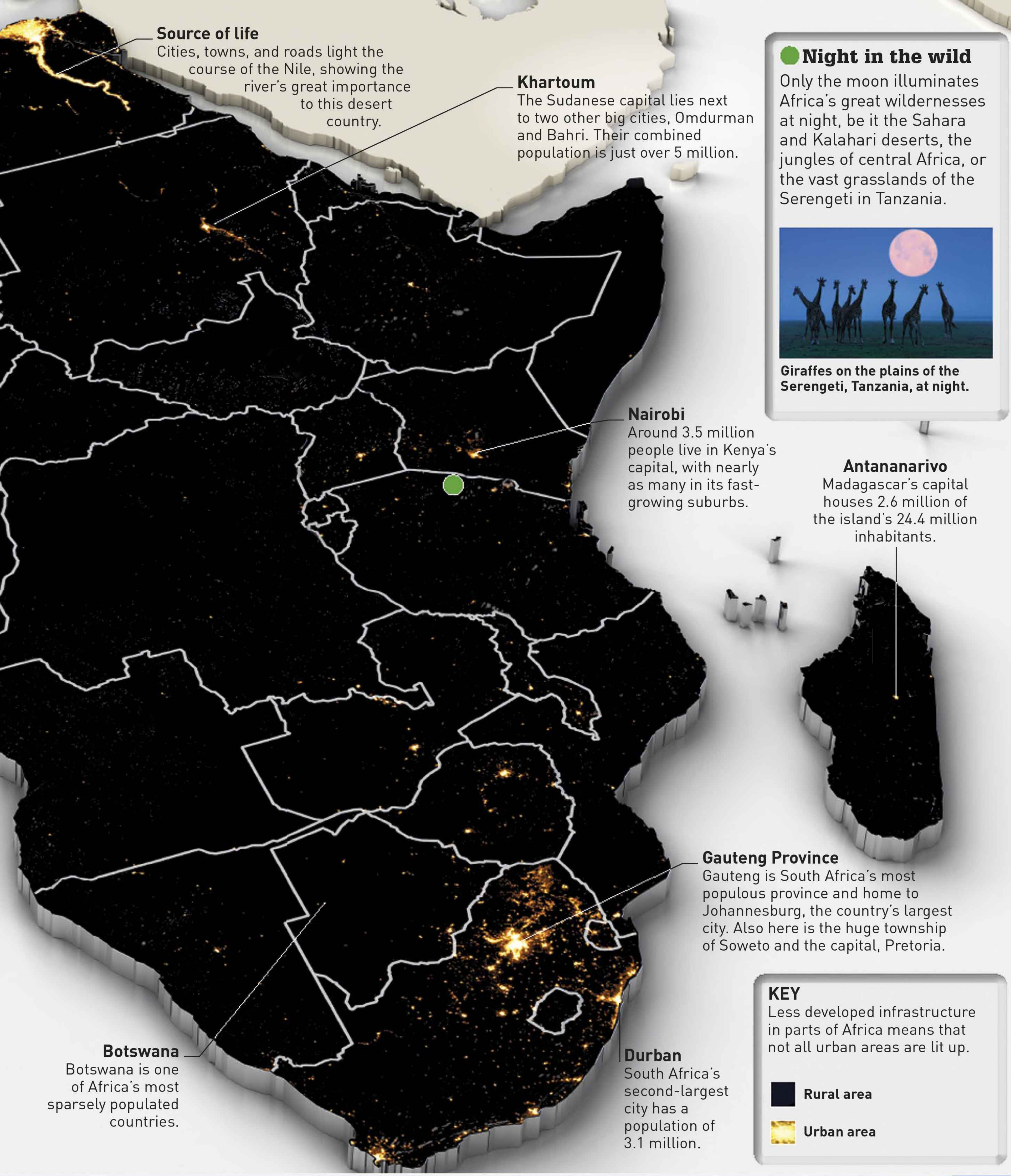
Algeria
Around 70 per cent of Algeria's 39.5 million inhabitants live in urban areas, mainly in the north.

Bamako
Mali's capital, home to 2.5 million people, is the largest city in the westernmost part of West Africa.

Ghana
In Ghana, 54 per cent of the population of 26.9 million live in urban areas, such as Accra and Kumasi.

Lagos
With millions living in poorly lit slums, this bright spot does not reflect the trie size of Nigeria's largest city.

● Niger Delta oil fields
Much of the strong glow in Nigeria's Niger Delta comes from the many oil fields, with their open gas flares, big refineries, and busy ports.



Source of life
Cities, towns, and roads light the course of the Nile, showing the river's great importance to this desert country.

Khartoum
The Sudanese capital lies next to two other big cities, Omdurman and Bahri. Their combined population is just over 5 million.

Nairobi
Around 3.5 million people live in Kenya's capital, with nearly as many in its fast-growing suburbs.

Antananarivo
Madagascar's capital houses 2.6 million of the island's 24.4 million inhabitants.

Gauteng Province
Gauteng is South Africa's most populous province and home to Johannesburg, the country's largest city. Also here is the huge township of Soweto and the capital, Pretoria.

Botswana
Botswana is one of Africa's most sparsely populated countries.

Durban
South Africa's second-largest city has a population of 3.1 million.

● Night in the wild

Only the moon illuminates Africa's great wildernesses at night, be it the Sahara and Kalahari deserts, the jungles of central Africa, or the vast grasslands of the Serengeti in Tanzania.

Giraffes on the plains of the Serengeti, Tanzania, at night.

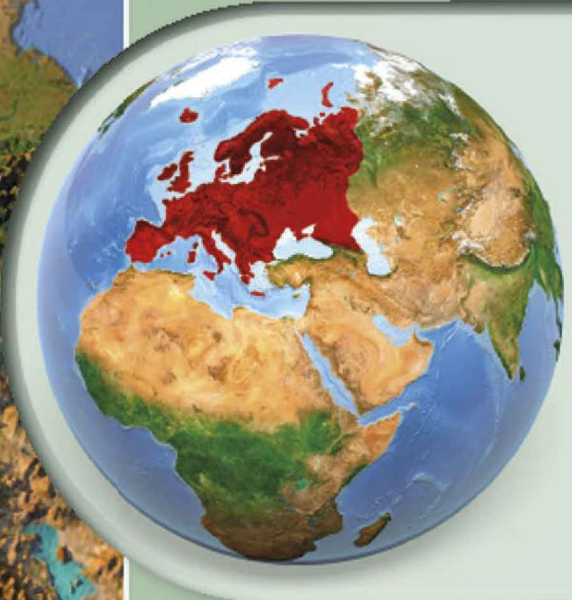
KEY
Less developed infrastructure in parts of Africa means that not all urban areas are lit up.

■ **Rural area**

▨ **Urban area**

COUNTRY ON EARTH; IT IS GROWING BY 3.92 PER CENT EVERY YEAR.

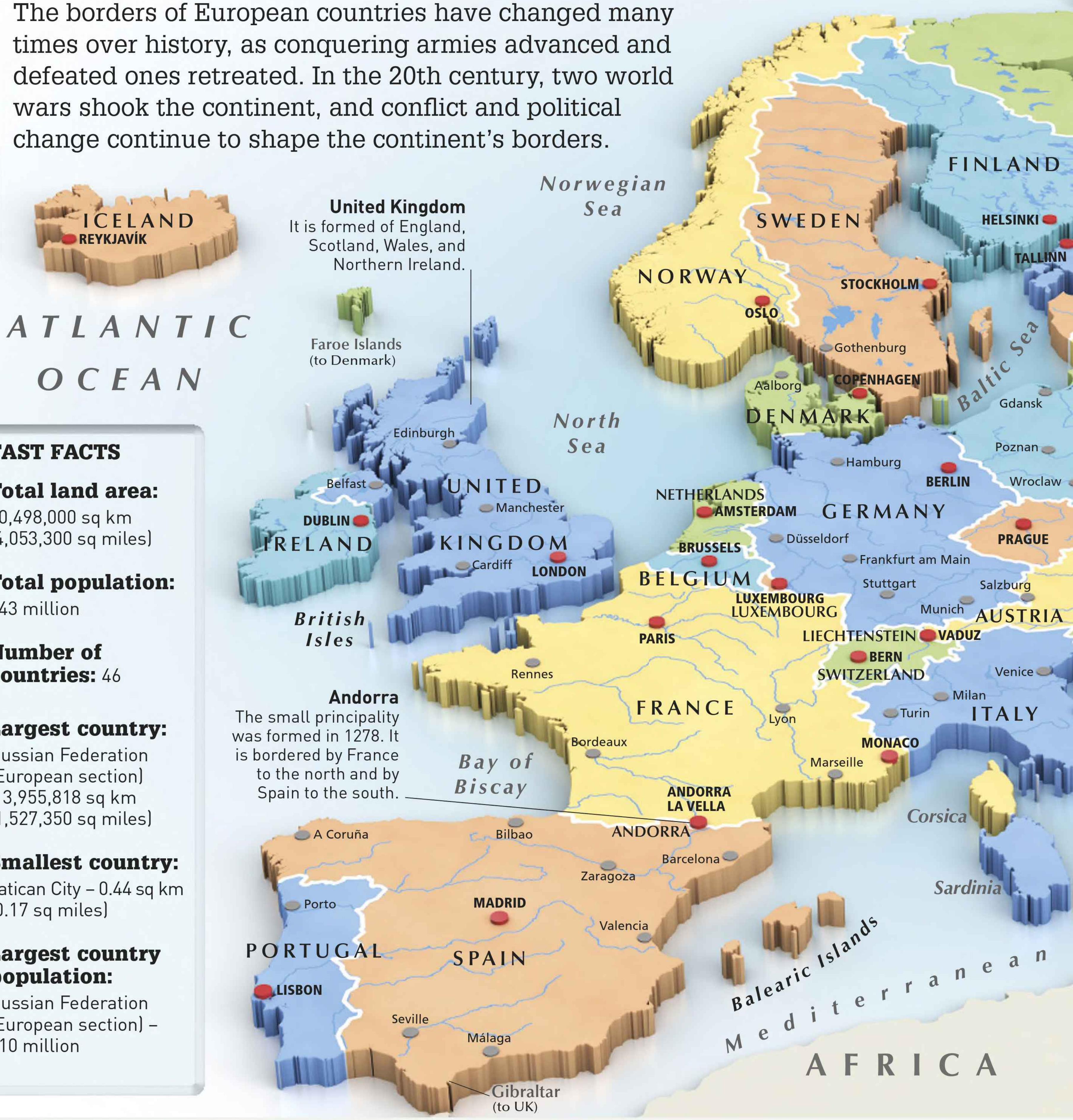
EUROPE



Europe from space
The European continent lies in the northern hemisphere and has an eastern land border with Asia. The distinctive "boot" of Italy is clearly visible in this image.

Countries and borders

The borders of European countries have changed many times over history, as conquering armies advanced and defeated ones retreated. In the 20th century, two world wars shook the continent, and conflict and political change continue to shape the continent's borders.


N
ICELAND
REYKJAVÍK
ATLANTIC OCEAN
Faroe Islands (to Denmark)
Norwegian Sea
North Sea
NORWAY
OSLO
SWEDEN
STOCKHOLM
Gothenburg
FINLAND
HELSINKI
TALLINN
Baltic Sea
Gdansk
Aalborg
COPENHAGEN
DENMARK
Edinburgh
Belfast
DUBLIN
IRELAND
UNITED KINGDOM
Manchester
Cardiff
LONDON
British Isles
NETHERLANDS
AMSTERDAM
Hamburg
BERLIN
Poznan
Wroclaw
GERMANY
Düsseldorf
PRAGUE
BRUSSELS
BELGIUM
Frankfurt am Main
Stuttgart
Salzburg
LUXEMBOURG
LUXEMBOURG
Munich
AUSTRIA
PARIS
LIECHTENSTEIN
VADUZ
BERN
SWITZERLAND
Venice
Rennes
FRANCE
Lyon
Milan
Turin
ITALY
Bordeaux
MONACO
Marseille
Bay of Biscay
ANDORRA LA VELLA
ANDORRA
Corsica
A Coruña
Bilbao
Barcelona
Zaragoza
Sardinia
Porto
MADRID
Valencia
PORTUGAL
SPAIN
Balearic Islands
LISBON
Seville
Málaga
Mediterranean
AFRICA
Gibraltar (to UK)

United Kingdom
It is formed of England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

Andorra
The small principality was formed in 1278. It is bordered by France to the north and by Spain to the south.

FAST FACTS

Total land area:
10,498,000 sq km (4,053,300 sq miles)

Total population:
743 million

Number of countries: 46

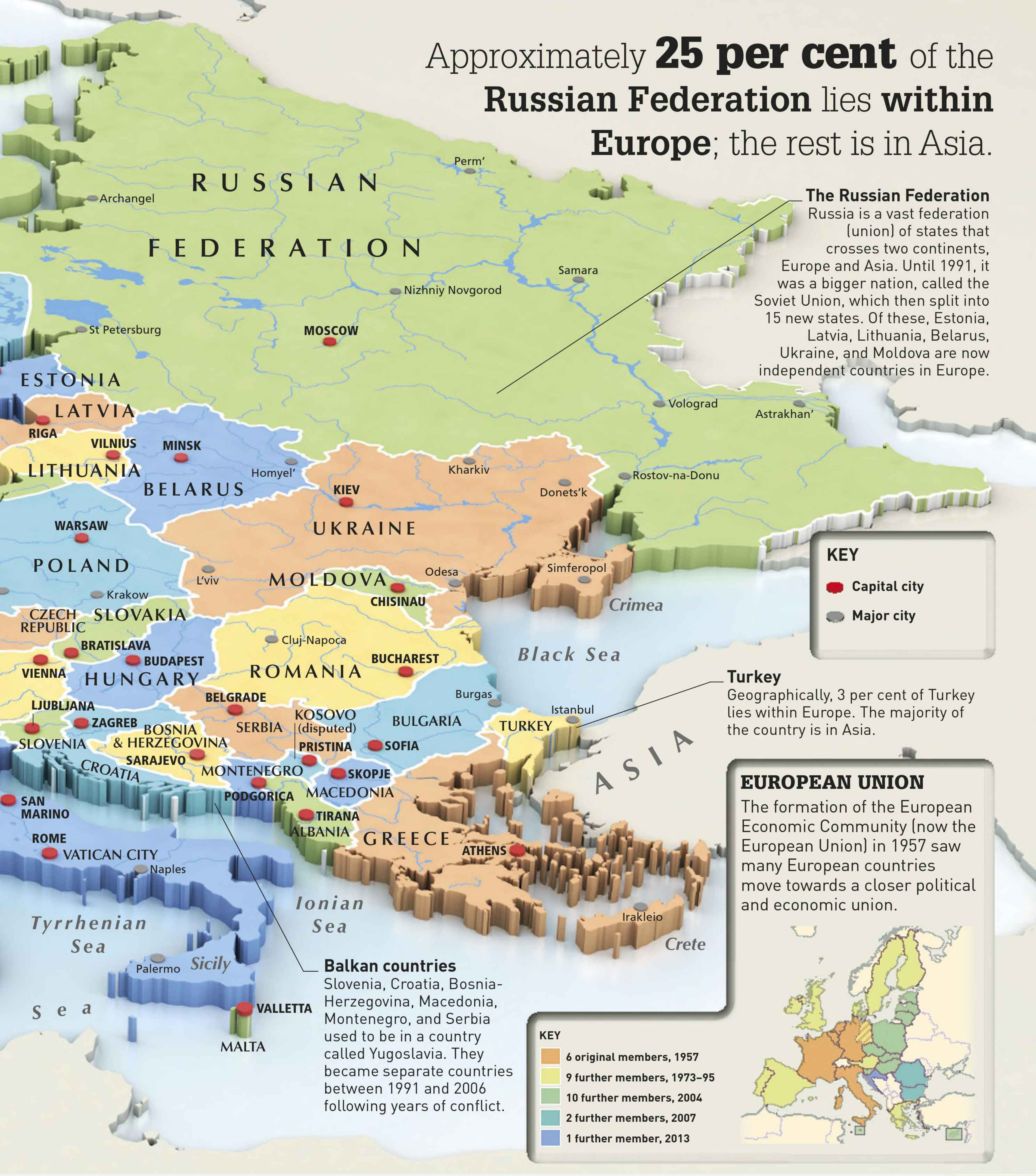
Largest country:
Russian Federation (European section) – 3,955,818 sq km (1,527,350 sq miles)

Smallest country:
Vatican City – 0.44 sq km (0.17 sq miles)

Largest country population:
Russian Federation (European section) – 110 million

THE VATICAN CITY, THE WORLD'S SMALLEST COUNTRY (POPULATION:

Approximately **25 per cent** of the **Russian Federation** lies **within Europe**; the rest is in Asia.


RUSSIAN FEDERATION
Archangel
Perm'
Samara
Nizhniy Novgorod
St Petersburg
MOSCOW
ESTONIA
LATVIA
RIGA
VILNIUS
MINSK
LITHUANIA
Homyel'
BELARUS
Kharkiv
Donets'k
Rostov-na-Donu
Volograd
Astrakhan'
KIEV
UKRAINE
WARSAW
POLAND
L'viv
Krakow
MOLDOVA
CHISINAU
Odesa
Simferopol
Crimea
CZECH REPUBLIC
SLOVAKIA
BRATISLAVA
BUDAPEST
VIENNA
HUNGARY
Cluj-Napoca
ROMANIA
BUCHAREST
Black Sea
Burgas
Istanbul
TURKEY
BELGRADE
LJUBLJANA
ZAGREB
SLOVENIA
BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA
SARAJEVO
CROATIA
SERBIA
KOSOVO (disputed)
PRISTINA
BULGARIA
SOFIA
MONTENEGRO
PODGORICA
SKOPJE
MACEDONIA
TIRANA
ALBANIA
GREECE
ATHENS
ASIA
SAN MARINO
ROME
VATICAN CITY
Naples
Ionian Sea
Tyrrhenian Sea
Irakleio
Crete
Palermo
Sicily
Sea
VALLETTA
MALTA

The Russian Federation
Russia is a vast federation (union) of states that crosses two continents, Europe and Asia. Until 1991, it was a bigger nation, called the Soviet Union, which then split into 15 new states. Of these, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine, and Moldova are now independent countries in Europe.

KEY

- 🔴 Capital city
- ⚫ Major city

Turkey
Geographically, 3 per cent of Turkey lies within Europe. The majority of the country is in Asia.

Balkan countries
Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia used to be in a country called Yugoslavia. They became separate countries between 1991 and 2006 following years of conflict.

EUROPEAN UNION

The formation of the European Economic Community (now the European Union) in 1957 saw many European countries move towards a closer political and economic union.

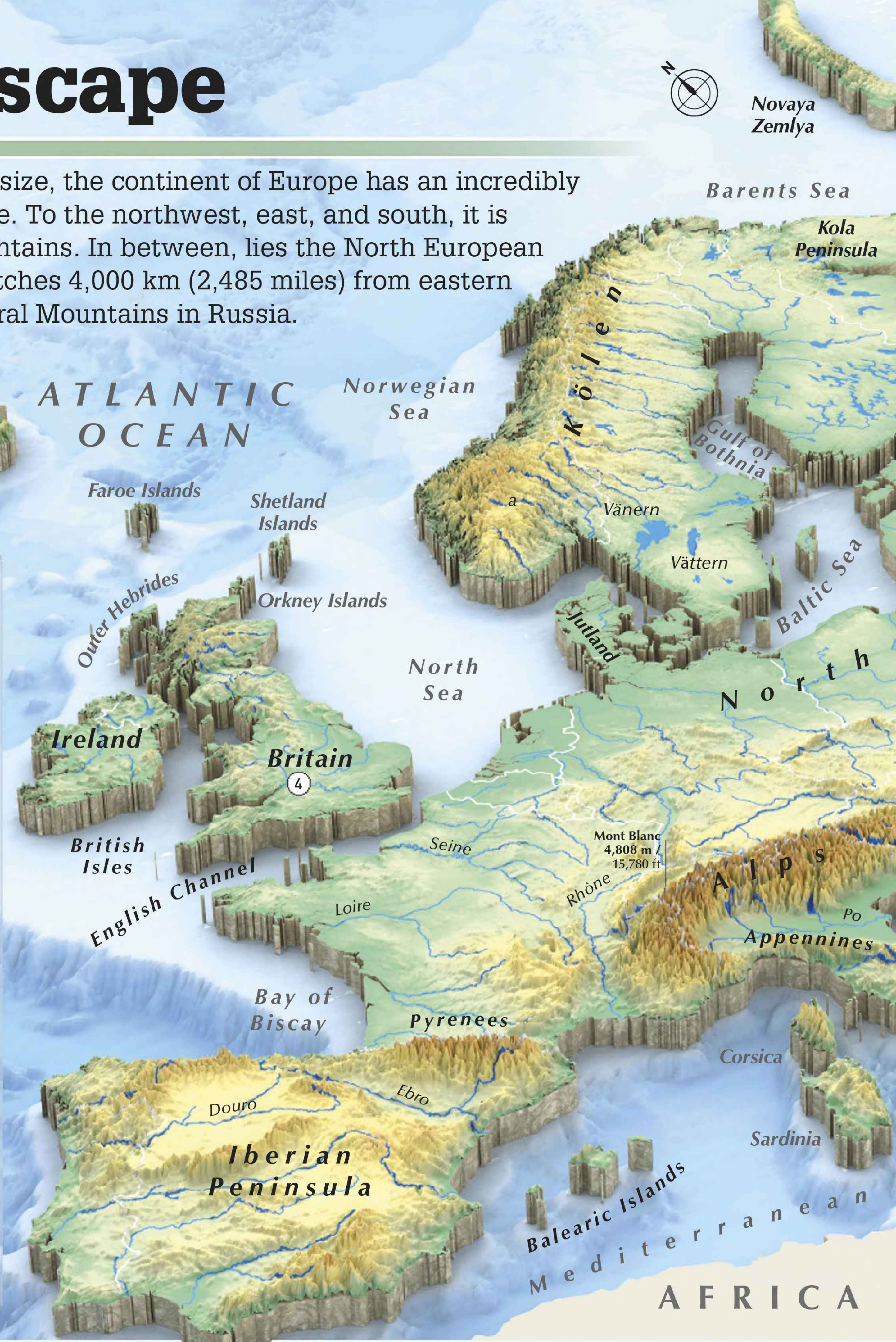
KEY

- 🟧 6 original members, 1957
- 🟨 9 further members, 1973–95
- 🟩 10 further members, 2004
- ▨ 2 further members, 2007
- 🟦 1 further member, 2013

AROUND 1,000), BECAME AN INDEPENDENT STATE IN 1929.

Landscape

Despite its small size, the continent of Europe has an incredibly diverse landscape. To the northwest, east, and south, it is enclosed by mountains. In between, lies the North European Plain, which stretches 4,000 km (2,485 miles) from eastern England to the Ural Mountains in Russia.


N
Novaya Zemlya
Barents Sea
Kola Peninsula
Kölen
Iceland
ATLANTIC OCEAN
Norwegian Sea
Gulf of Bothnia
Faroe Islands
Shetland Islands
Vänern
Vättern
Baltic Sea
Outer Hebrides
Orkney Islands
Jutland
North Sea
North
Ireland
Britain
4
British Isles
English Channel
Seine
Mont Blanc 4,808 m / 15,780 ft
Rhône
Alps
Loire
Po
Appennines
Bay of Biscay
Pyrenees
Corsica
Douro
Ebro
Sardinia
Iberian Peninsula
Balearic Islands
Mediterranean
AFRICA

FAST FACTS

① **Highest point:**
Mount Elbrus, Russia – 5,642 m (18,510 ft)

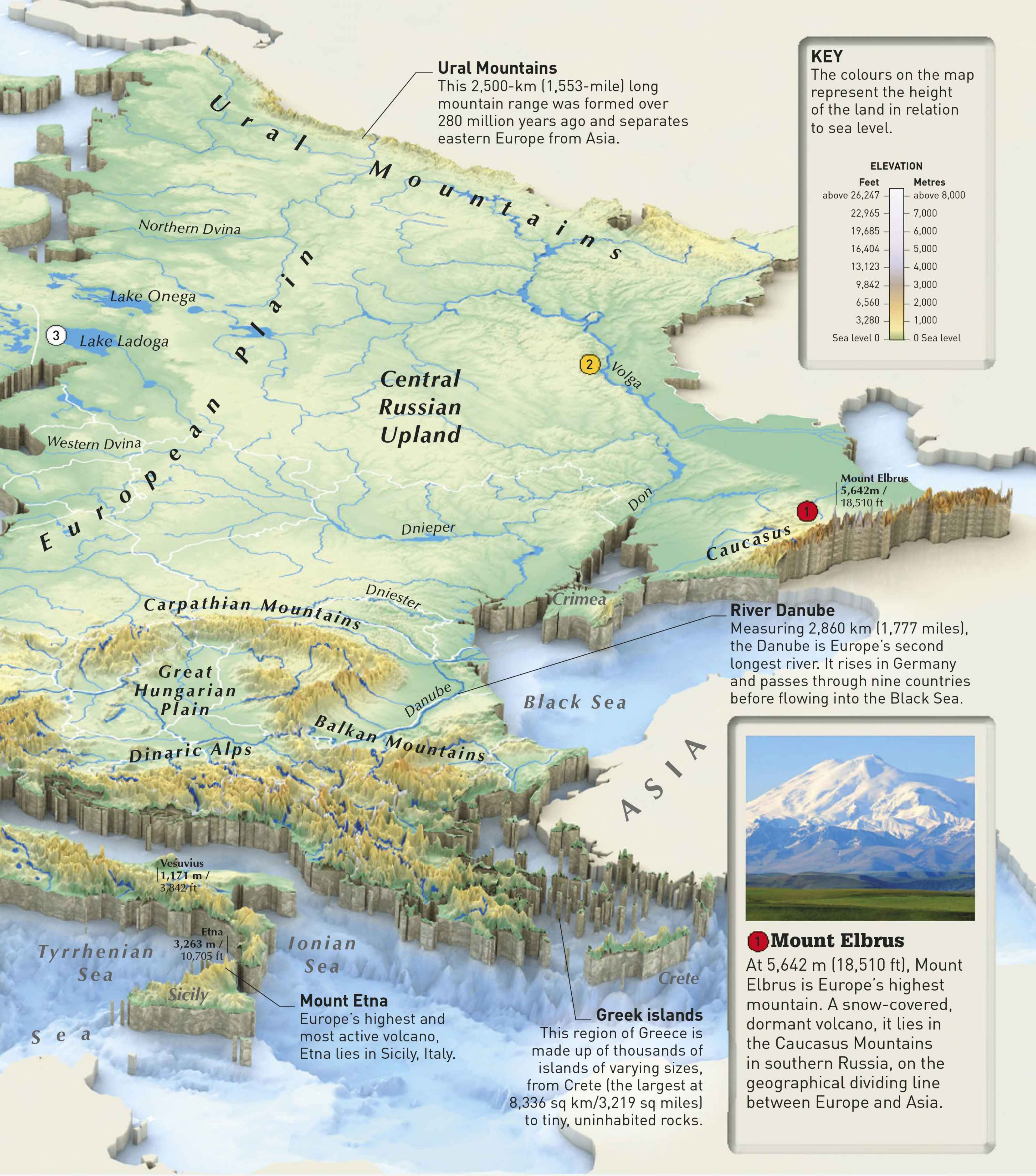
② **Longest river:**
Volga, Russia – 3,688 km (2,291 miles)

③ **Largest lake:**
Lake Ladoga, Russia – 18,390 sq km (7,100 sq miles)

④ **Largest island:**
Britain (England, Wales, and Scotland) – 229,848 sq km (88,745 sq miles)

Europe's largest lake, Ladoga lies close to the city of St Petersburg, in Russia.

EUROPE HAS A HIGHER RATIO OF COAST TO LANDMASS


Ural Mountains
Northern Dvina
Lake Onega
3
Lake Ladoga
European Plain
Central Russian Upland
2
Volga
Western Dvina
Dnieper
Don
Mount Elbrus
5,642m /
18,510 ft
1
Caucasus
Crimea
Dniester
Carpathian Mountains
Great Hungarian Plain
Danube
Black Sea
Balkan Mountains
Dinaric Alps
ASIA
Vesuvius
1,171 m /
3,842 ft
Etna
3,263 m /
10,705 ft
Tyrrhenian Sea
Ionian Sea
Sicily
Crete
Sea

Ural Mountains
This 2,500-km (1,553-mile) long mountain range was formed over 280 million years ago and separates eastern Europe from Asia.

KEY
The colours on the map represent the height of the land in relation to sea level.

ELEVATION

Feet	Metres
above 26,247	above 8,000
22,965	7,000
19,685	6,000
16,404	5,000
13,123	4,000
9,842	3,000
6,560	2,000
3,280	1,000
Sea level 0	0 Sea level

River Danube
Measuring 2,860 km (1,777 miles), the Danube is Europe's second longest river. It rises in Germany and passes through nine countries before flowing into the Black Sea.

① Mount Elbrus

At 5,642 m (18,510 ft), Mount Elbrus is Europe's highest mountain. A snow-covered, dormant volcano, it lies in the Caucasus Mountains in southern Russia, on the geographical dividing line between Europe and Asia.

Mount Etna
Europe's highest and most active volcano, Etna lies in Sicily, Italy.

Greek islands
This region of Greece is made up of thousands of islands of varying sizes, from Crete (the largest at 8,336 sq km/3,219 sq miles) to tiny, uninhabited rocks.

THAN ANY OTHER CONTINENT OR SUBCONTINENT.

Fascinating facts

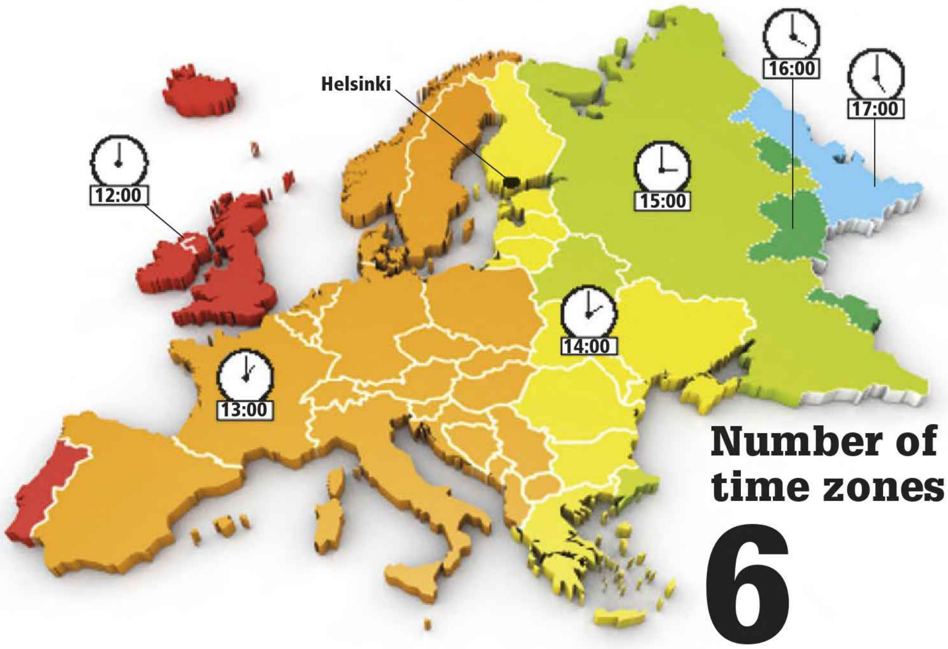
Landlocked countries – 14

Andorra ▪ Austria ▪ **Belarus** ▪ Czech Republic ▪ **Hungary** ▪ Liechtenstein ▪ **Luxembourg** ▪ Macedonia ▪ **Moldova** ▪ San Marino ▪ **Serbia** ▪ Slovakia ▪ **Switzerland** ▪ Vatican City

Number of languages

39

There are 39 official European languages and many more regional languages and dialects.



Number of time zones

6

The world is split into 39 time zones. Most are set whole hours ahead or behind Coordinated Universal Time (UCT) – the time at the Greenwich Meridian in London, UK. Some, however, are whole hours plus 30 or 45 minutes ahead or behind UCT. Therefore, on this map, if it was 12:00 in London, it would be 14:00 in Helsinki, Finland (2 hours ahead of UCT).

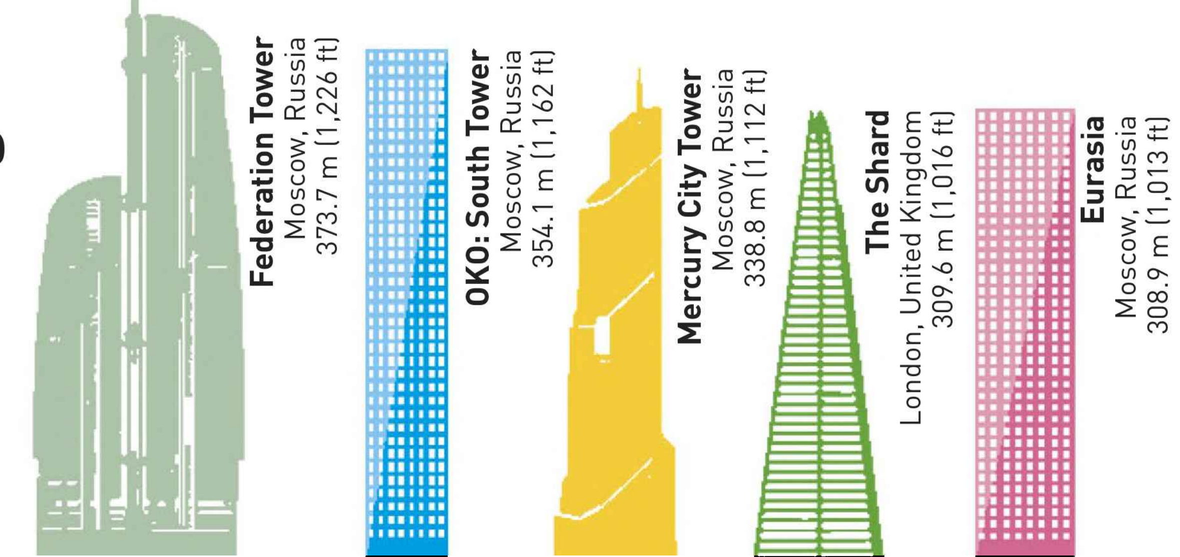
Deepest lake

Hornindalsvattnet, Norway – **514 m (1,686 ft)**

Fastest train

Europe's fastest train is the **Frecciarossa 1000** in **Italy**, which can reach speeds of up to **400 km/h (249 mph)**

Tallest buildings



Federation Tower
Moscow, Russia
373.7 m (1,226 ft)

OKO: South Tower
Moscow, Russia
354.1 m (1,162 ft)

Mercury City Tower
Moscow, Russia
338.8 m (1,112 ft)

The Shard
London, United Kingdom
309.6 m (1,016 ft)

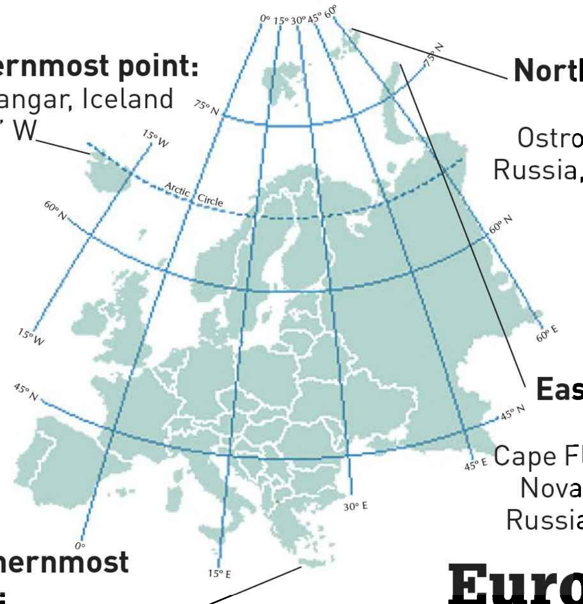
Eurasia
Moscow, Russia
308.9 m (1,013 ft)

WATERFALLS

● Highest:
Vinnufossen, Norway – 860 m (2,821 ft)

Largest (by volume):
Dettifoss, Iceland – 200 m³ (7,063 ft³) of water per second

The falls are 100 m (328 ft) wide



Westernmost point:
Bjargtangar, Iceland
24° 33′ W

Northernmost point:
Ostrov Rudol′fa,
Russia, 81° 47′ N

Easternmost point:
Cape Flissingskiy,
Novaya Zemlya,
Russia, 69° 03′ E

Southernmost point:
Gávdos, Greece,
34° 51′ N

Europe's extreme points

Busiest airport Heathrow Airport, London, UK: **74,985 million passengers per year**

Longest tunnels

Railway tunnel
Gotthard Base Tunnel, Switzerland – 57.09 km (35.5 miles)

Metro line
Serpukhovsko line, Moscow, Russia – 41.5 km (25.8 miles)

Road tunnel
Laerdal, Norway – 24.53 km (15.2 miles)

Longest bridge

Vasco da Gama, Lisbon, Portugal **17.185 km (10.68 miles)**

Biggest glacier

Severny Island ice cap – northern island of the Novaya Zemlya archipelago in Russia – **20,500 sq km (7,915 sq miles)**

Longest coastline

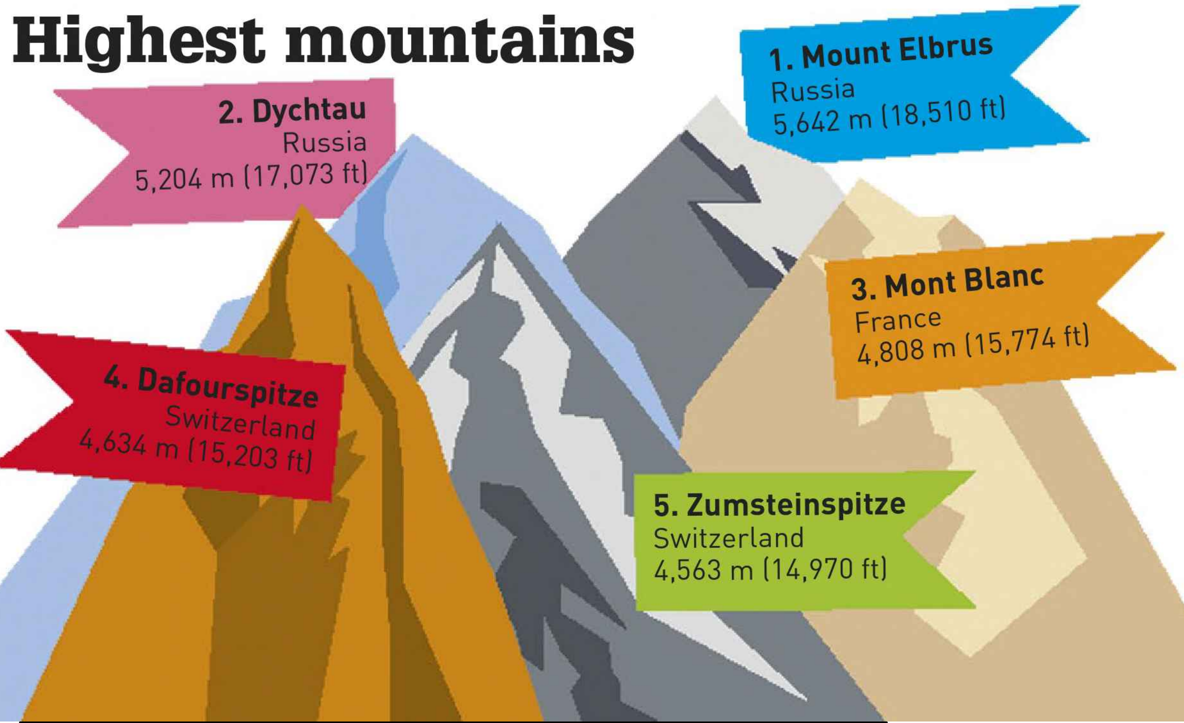
Norway

25,148 km (15,626 miles)

Most active volcano

Mount Etna, Italy

Highest mountains



1. Mount Elbrus
Russia
5,642 m (18,510 ft)

2. Dychtau
Russia
5,204 m (17,073 ft)

3. Mont Blanc
France
4,808 m (15,774 ft)

4. Dafourspitze
Switzerland
4,634 m (15,203 ft)

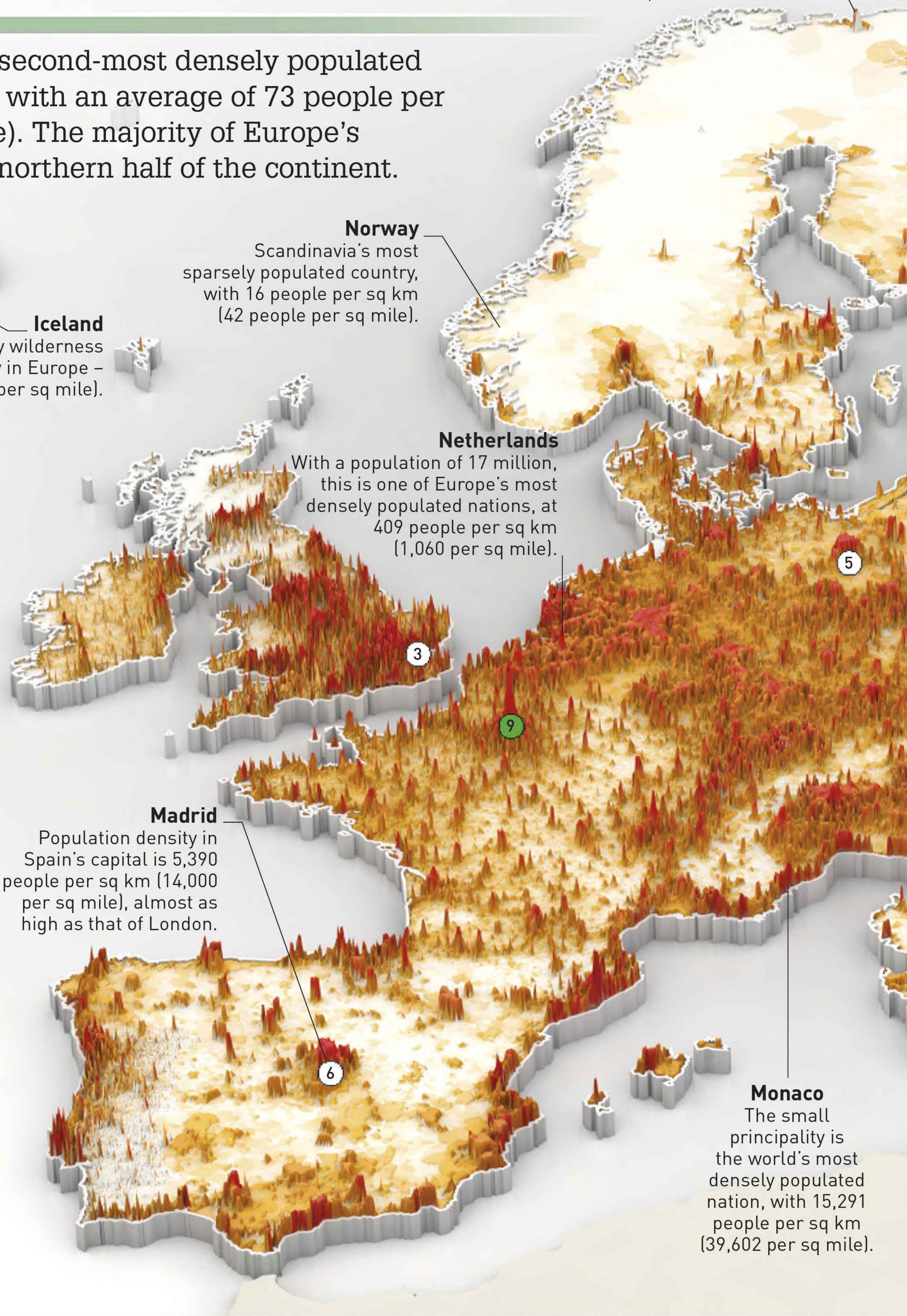
5. Zumsteinspitze
Switzerland
4,563 m (14,970 ft)

Highest bridge

Millau Viaduct, France – bridge deck is **270 m (886 ft)** above the ground

Population

Europe is the world's second-most densely populated continent (after Asia), with an average of 73 people per sq km (188 per sq mile). The majority of Europe's population live in the northern half of the continent.



Murmansk, Russia The largest city north of the Arctic Circle. It has 299,000 inhabitants.

Norway Scandinavia's most sparsely populated country, with 16 people per sq km (42 people per sq mile).

Iceland This island of volcanoes and icy wilderness has the lowest population density in Europe – 3 people per sq km (8 people per sq mile).

Netherlands With a population of 17 million, this is one of Europe's most densely populated nations, at 409 people per sq km (1,060 per sq mile).

Madrid Population density in Spain's capital is 5,390 people per sq km (14,000 per sq mile), almost as high as that of London.

Monaco The small principality is the world's most densely populated nation, with 15,291 people per sq km (39,602 per sq mile).

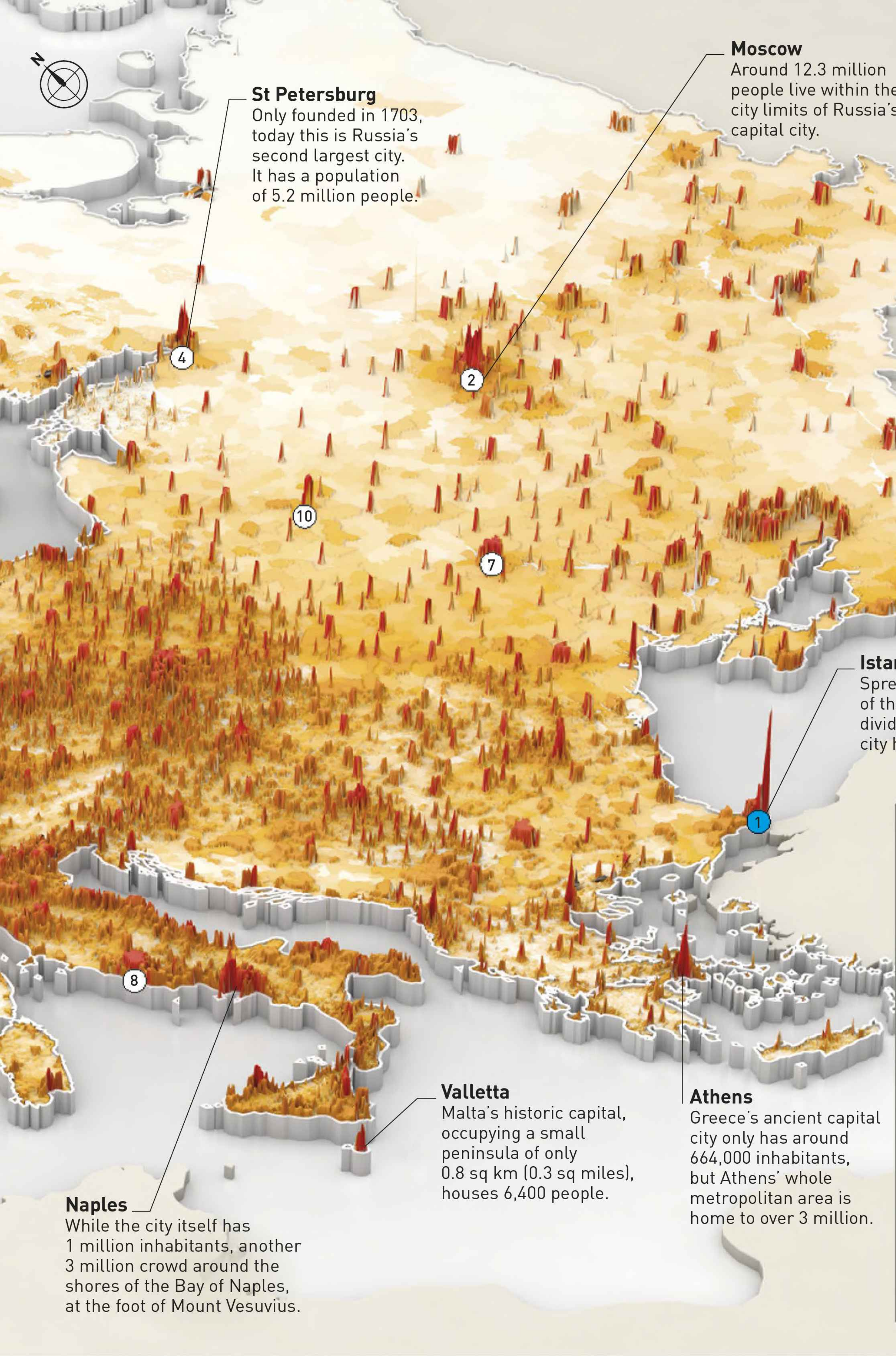
Europe's largest cities

The list below is based on the number of people living inside a city's boundaries.

① **Istanbul, Turkey – 14.7 million**
② **Moscow, Russia – 12.3 million**
③ **London, United Kingdom – 8.7 million**
④ **St Petersburg, Russia – 5.2 million**
⑤ **Berlin, Germany – 3.6 million**
⑥ **Madrid, Spain – 3.1 million**
⑦ **Kiev, Ukraine – 2.9 million**
⑧ **Rome, Italy – 2.87 million**
⑨ **Paris, France – 2.2 million**
⑩ **Minsk, Belarus – 1.9 million**

The Eiffel Tower dominates the skyline of Paris, France's most populous city.

OF THE WORLD'S 10 MOST DENSELY POPULATED LOCATIONS, FOUR



St Petersburg
Only founded in 1703, today this is Russia's second largest city. It has a population of 5.2 million people.

Moscow
Around 12.3 million people live within the city limits of Russia's capital city.

KEY
The colours represent the number of people living per square kilometre/square mile.

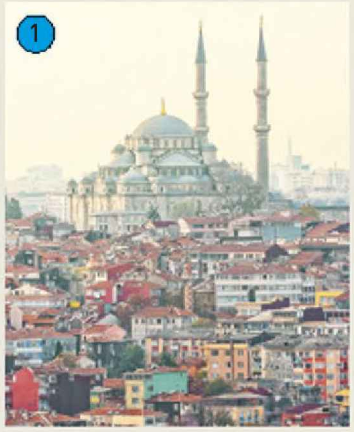
POPULATION DENSITY

people per sq mile	people per sq km
above 2,600	above 1,000
1,950	750
1,300	500
650	250
260	100
130	50

Istanbul
Spreading out on both banks of the Bosphorus Strait, which divides Europe and Asia, this huge city has a foot in each continent.

Istanbul

Istanbul, Europe's largest city, has a population of 14.7 million people. Its historical centre lies on the city's European side.



The Suleymaniye Mosque in Istanbul's city centre.

Naples
While the city itself has 1 million inhabitants, another 3 million crowd around the shores of the Bay of Naples, at the foot of Mount Vesuvius.

Valletta
Malta's historic capital, occupying a small peninsula of only 0.8 sq km (0.3 sq miles), houses 6,400 people.

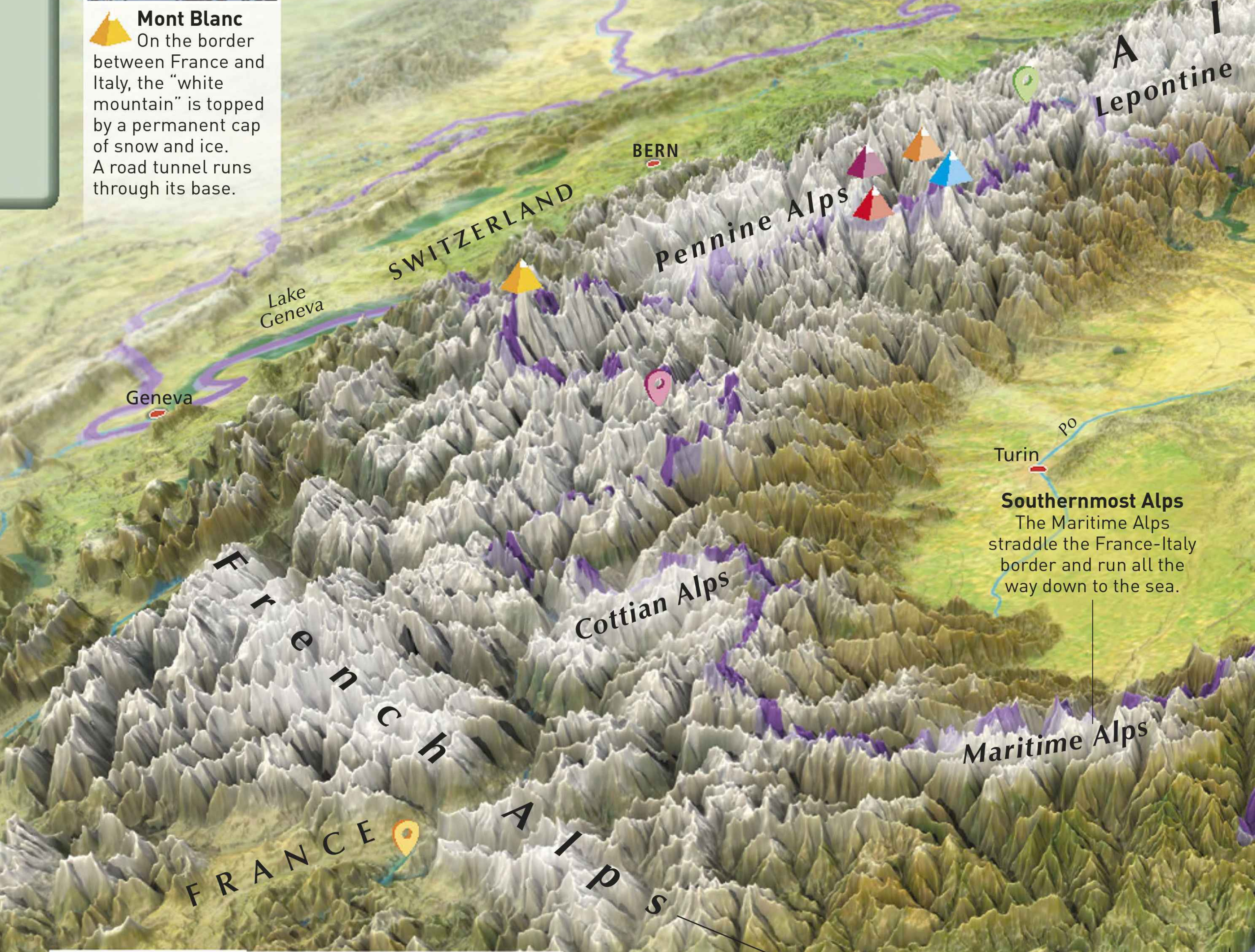
Athens
Greece's ancient capital city only has around 664,000 inhabitants, but Athens' whole metropolitan area is home to over 3 million.

(MONACO, GIBRALTAR, THE VATICAN CITY, AND MALTA) ARE IN EUROPE.

Mont Blanc On the border between France and Italy, the "white mountain" is topped by a permanent cap of snow and ice. A road tunnel runs through its base.

Highest road At 2,764 m (9,068 ft), Col de l'Iseran, France, is only accesible by car in summer. Tour de France cyclists have struggled over it several times.

Biggest glacier The Aletsch glacier, Switzerland, measures over 900 m (2,950 ft) at its thickest, and is 117 sq km (45 sq miles) in size, but it is melting every year.

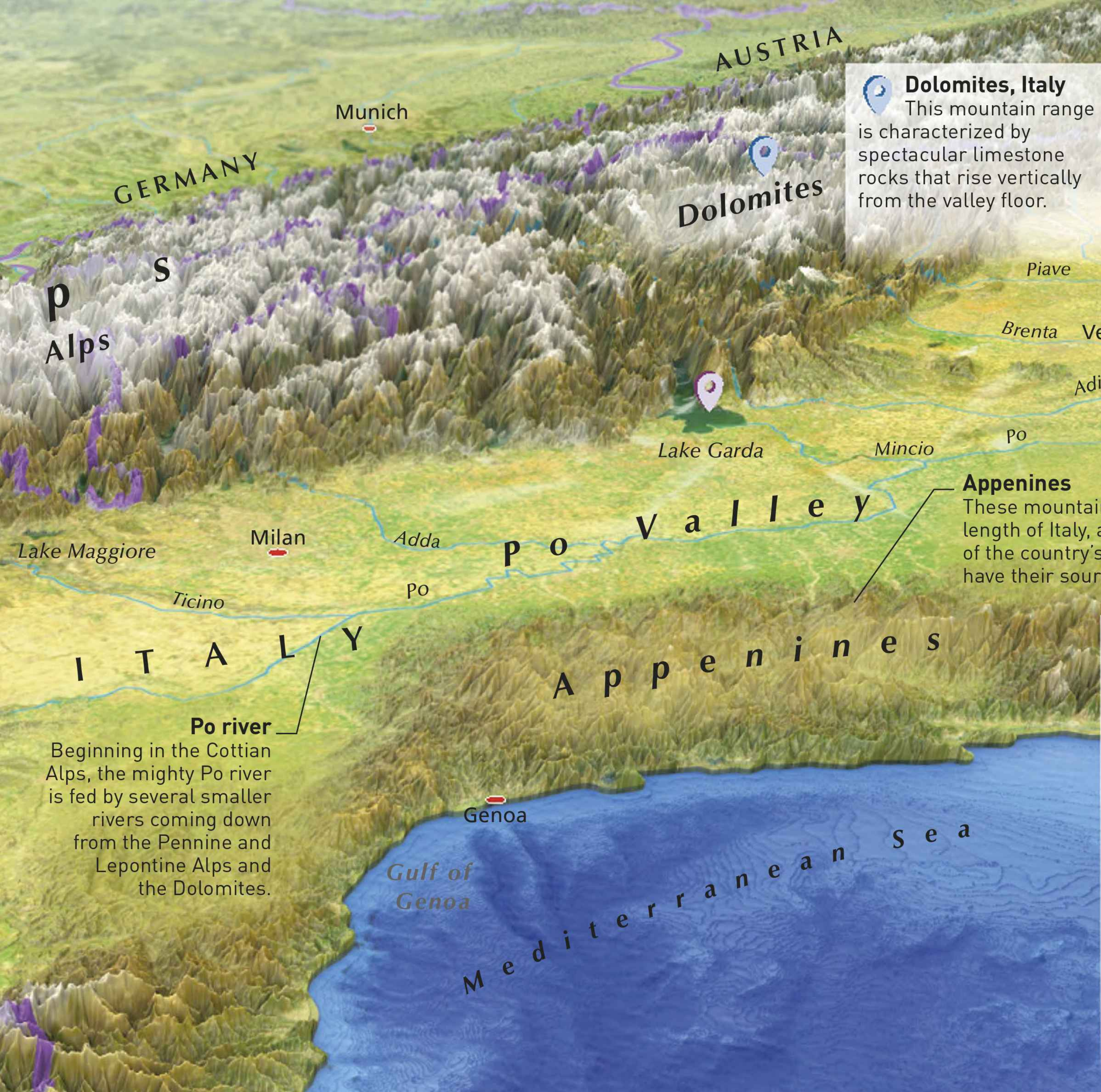

A I
Lepontine
BERN
SWITZERLAND
Pennine Alps
Lake Geneva
Geneva
Po
Turin
Cottian Alps
French Alps
Maritime Alps
FRANCE

Southernmost Alps The Maritime Alps straddle the France-Italy border and run all the way down to the sea.

Artificial lake The Lac Serre-Ponçon, one of Europe's biggest artificial lakes, was created from 1955–61 to prevent flooding. It covers 28 sq km (10.8 sq miles) and is up to 90 m (295 ft) deep.

French Alps This range sits within France and contains Mont Blanc.

THE ALPS ARE HOME TO 14 MILLION PEOPLE AND 120 MILLION


AUSTRIA
Munich
GERMANY
Dolomites
Alps
Piave
Gulf of Venice
Brenta
Venice
Adige
Lake Garda
Mincio
Po
Reno
Bologna
Lake Maggiore
Milan
Adda
Po Valley
Po
Ticino
ITALY
Appenines
Genoa
Gulf of Genoa
Mediterranean Sea

Dolomites, Italy This mountain range is characterized by spectacular limestone rocks that rise vertically from the valley floor.

Appenines These mountains run the length of Italy, and most of the country's rivers have their source here.

Po river Beginning in the Cottian Alps, the mighty Po river is fed by several smaller rivers coming down from the Pennine and Lepontine Alps and the Dolomites.

Lake Garda At 367 sq km (142 sq miles), Garda is the largest of Italy's great Alpine lakes. It reaches a depth of 346 m (1,135 ft) at its narrow northern end.

The Alps

The Alps are the highest and most extensive mountain range in western Europe. Shaped like a crescent, they stretch across eight countries for 1,200 km (750 miles) and are 200 km (125 miles) wide at their broadest point. Over 100 peaks are in excess of 4,000 m (13,123 ft), the highest of which is Mont Blanc, on the France-Italy border.

HIGHEST PEAKS

With the exception of Mont Blanc, the Alps' highest peaks are all situated in Switzerland.

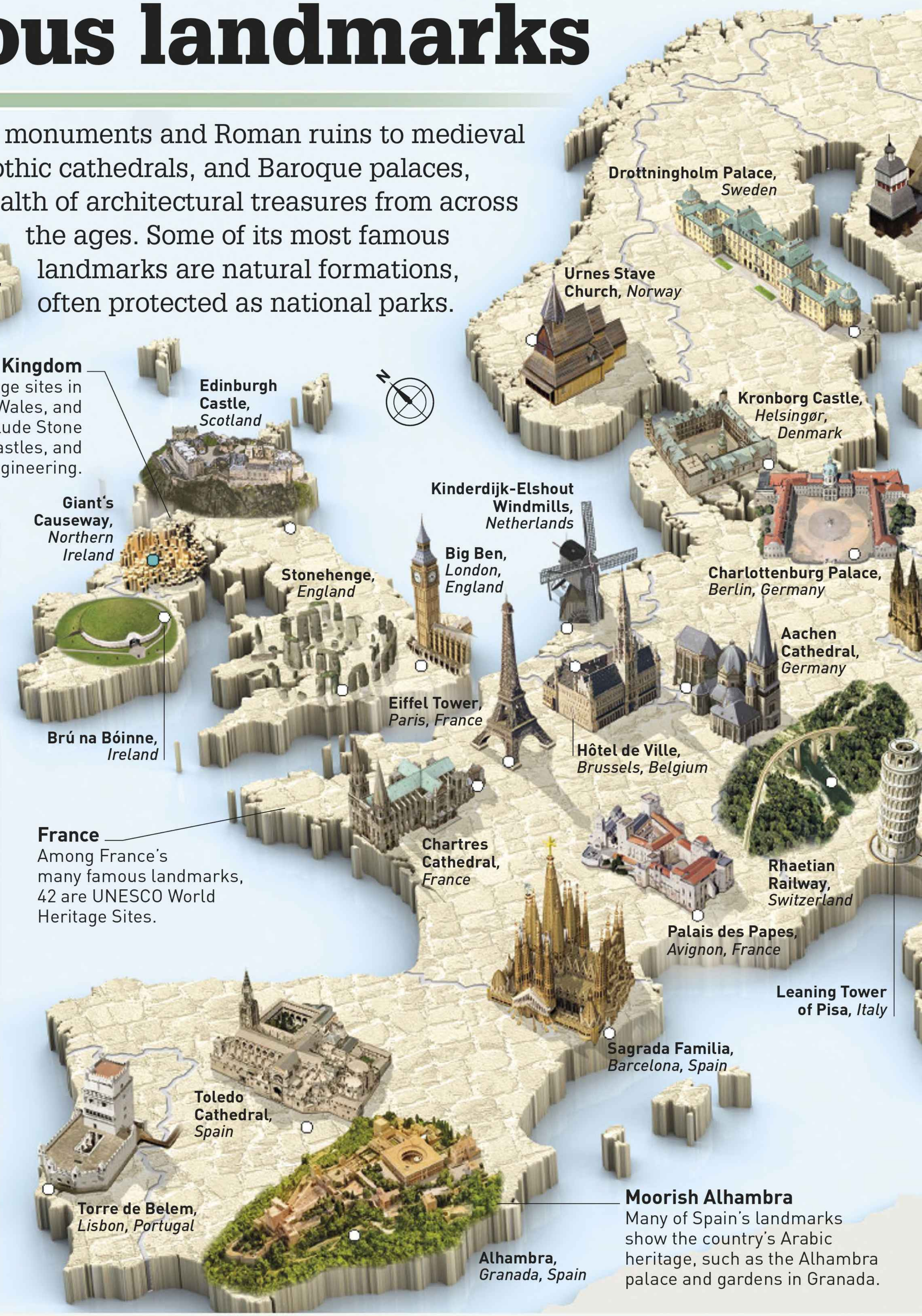
Mont Blanc	4,808 m (15,774 ft)
Monte Rosa	4,634 m (15,203 ft)
Dom	4,545 m (14,911 ft)
Weisshorn	4,506 m (14,783 ft)
Matterhorn	4,478 m (14,692 ft)

VISITORS COME TO SKI, HIKE, AND EXPLORE THERE EVERY YEAR.

Famous landmarks

From prehistoric monuments and Roman ruins to medieval town centres, Gothic cathedrals, and Baroque palaces, Europe has a wealth of architectural treasures from across the ages. Some of its most famous landmarks are natural formations, often protected as national parks.

Thingvellir National Park, *Iceland*



Drottningholm Palace, *Sweden*
Urnes Stave Church, *Norway*
Edinburgh Castle, *Scotland*
Kronborg Castle, *Helsingør, Denmark*
Kinderdijk-Elshout Windmills, *Netherlands*
Giant's Causeway, *Northern Ireland*
Big Ben, *London, England*
Stonehenge, *England*
Charlottenburg Palace, *Berlin, Germany*
Aachen Cathedral, *Germany*
Eiffel Tower, *Paris, France*
Brú na Bóinne, *Ireland*
Hôtel de Ville, *Brussels, Belgium*
Chartres Cathedral, *France*
Rhaetian Railway, *Switzerland*
Palais des Papes, *Avignon, France*
Leaning Tower of Pisa, *Italy*
Sagrada Familia, *Barcelona, Spain*
Toledo Cathedral, *Spain*
Torre de Belem, *Lisbon, Portugal*
Alhambra, *Granada, Spain*
N

United Kingdom
The 29 UNESCO heritage sites in England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland include Stone Age monuments, castles, and feats of Victorian engineering.

France
Among France's many famous landmarks, 42 are UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Moorish Alhambra
Many of Spain's landmarks show the country's Arabic heritage, such as the Alhambra palace and gardens in Granada.

Landscapes

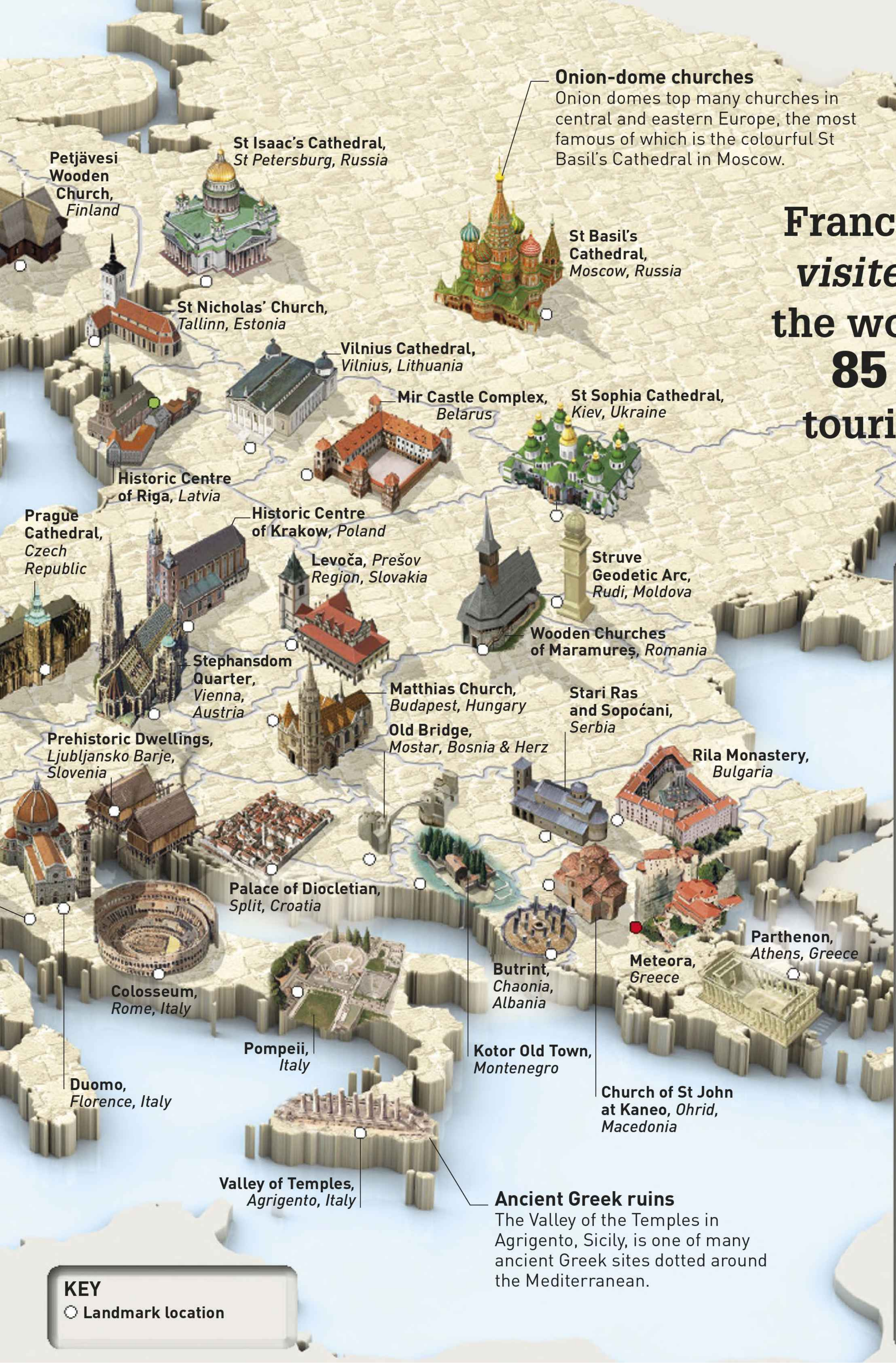
Europe has 468 national parks. Some are precious habitats or areas of natural beauty, while others contain particular geological formations.

● Iceland's Thingvellir National Park lies at the meeting point between the North American and Eurasian plates.

● Giant's Causeway, Northern Ireland, is made of basalt columns in different formations, some like giant honeycombs.

OF EUROPE'S MANY LANDMARKS, 453 ARE DESIGNATED UNESCO WORLD

France is the ***most visited*** country **in the world**, with over **85 million tourists** per year.


Petjävesi Wooden Church, *Finland*
St Isaac's Cathedral, *St Petersburg, Russia*
St Basil's Cathedral, *Moscow, Russia*
St Nicholas' Church, *Tallinn, Estonia*
Vilnius Cathedral, *Vilnius, Lithuania*
Mir Castle Complex, *Belarus*
St Sophia Cathedral, *Kiev, Ukraine*
Historic Centre of Riga, *Latvia*
Prague Cathedral, *Czech Republic*
Historic Centre of Krakow, *Poland*
Levoča, *Prešov Region, Slovakia*
Struve Geodetic Arc, *Rudi, Moldova*
Wooden Churches of Maramureș, *Romania*
Stephansdom Quarter, *Vienna, Austria*
Matthias Church, *Budapest, Hungary*
Stari Ras and Sopoćani, *Serbia*
Old Bridge, *Mostar, Bosnia & Herz*
Prehistoric Dwellings, *Ljubljansko Barje, Slovenia*
Rila Monastery, *Bulgaria*
Palace of Diocletian, *Split, Croatia*
Parthenon, *Athens, Greece*
Meteora, *Greece*
Butrint, *Chaonia, Albania*
Colosseum, *Rome, Italy*
Pompeii, *Italy*
Kotor Old Town, *Montenegro*
Duomo, *Florence, Italy*
Church of St John at Kaneo, *Ohrid, Macedonia*
Valley of Temples, *Agrigento, Italy*

Onion-dome churches
Onion domes top many churches in central and eastern Europe, the most famous of which is the colourful St Basil's Cathedral in Moscow.

Ancient Greek ruins
The Valley of the Temples in Agrigento, Sicily, is one of many ancient Greek sites dotted around the Mediterranean.

KEY
○ Landmark location

Buildings

Europe's architectural landmarks, whether in ruins, reconstructed, or in their original glory, all tell fascinating tales of the continent's history and its people.

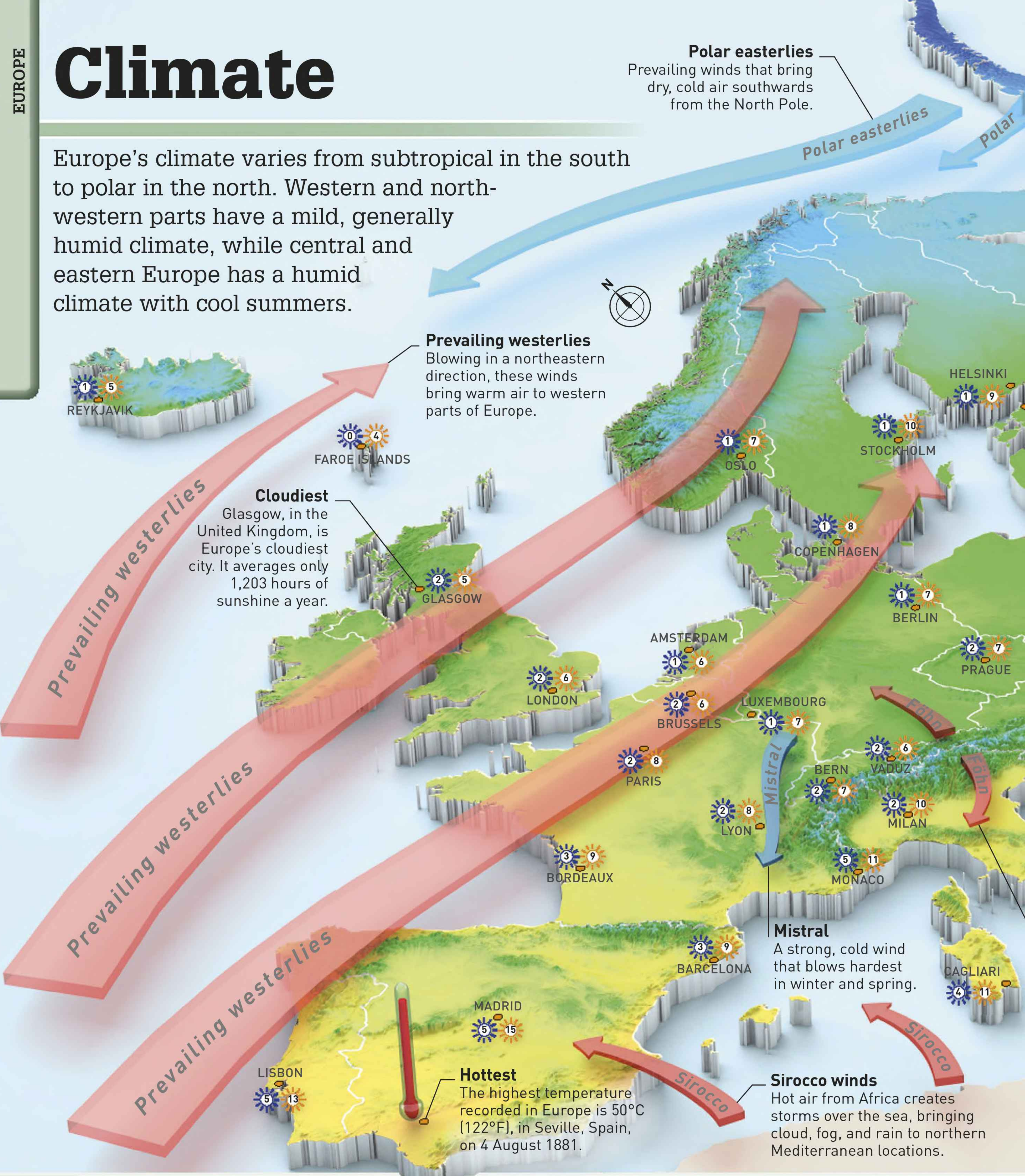
🟩 **The historic city centre of Riga, Latvia, is a mix of fine medieval buildings and some of the world's best Art Nouveau architecture.**

🟥 **Meteora, Greece, features a breathtaking group of monasteries perched on vertical cliffs. Only six of the original 24 remain today.**

HERITAGE SITES (ITALY IS IN TOP PLACE WITH 51 OF THESE).

Climate

Europe's climate varies from subtropical in the south to polar in the north. Western and north-western parts have a mild, generally humid climate, while central and eastern Europe has a humid climate with cool summers.


Polar easterlies
Polar
Prevailing westerlies
Prevailing westerlies
Prevailing westerlies
REYKJAVIK 1 5
FAROE ISLANDS 0 4
GLASGOW 2 5
OSLO 1 7
STOCKHOLM 1 10
HELSINKI 1 9
COPENHAGEN 1 8
BERLIN 1 7
AMSTERDAM 1 6
PRAGUE 2 7
LONDON 2 6
BRUSSELS 2 6
LUXEMBOURG 1 7
PARIS 2 8
Föhn
Föhn
VADUZ 2 6
BERN 2 7
Mistral
MILAN 2 10
LYON 2 8
BORDEAUX 3 9
MONACO 5 11
BARCELONA 3 9
CAGLIARI 4 11
MADRID 5 15
LISBON 5 13
Sirocco
Sirocco

Polar easterlies
Prevailing winds that bring dry, cold air southwards from the North Pole.

Prevailing westerlies
Blowing in a northeastern direction, these winds bring warm air to western parts of Europe.

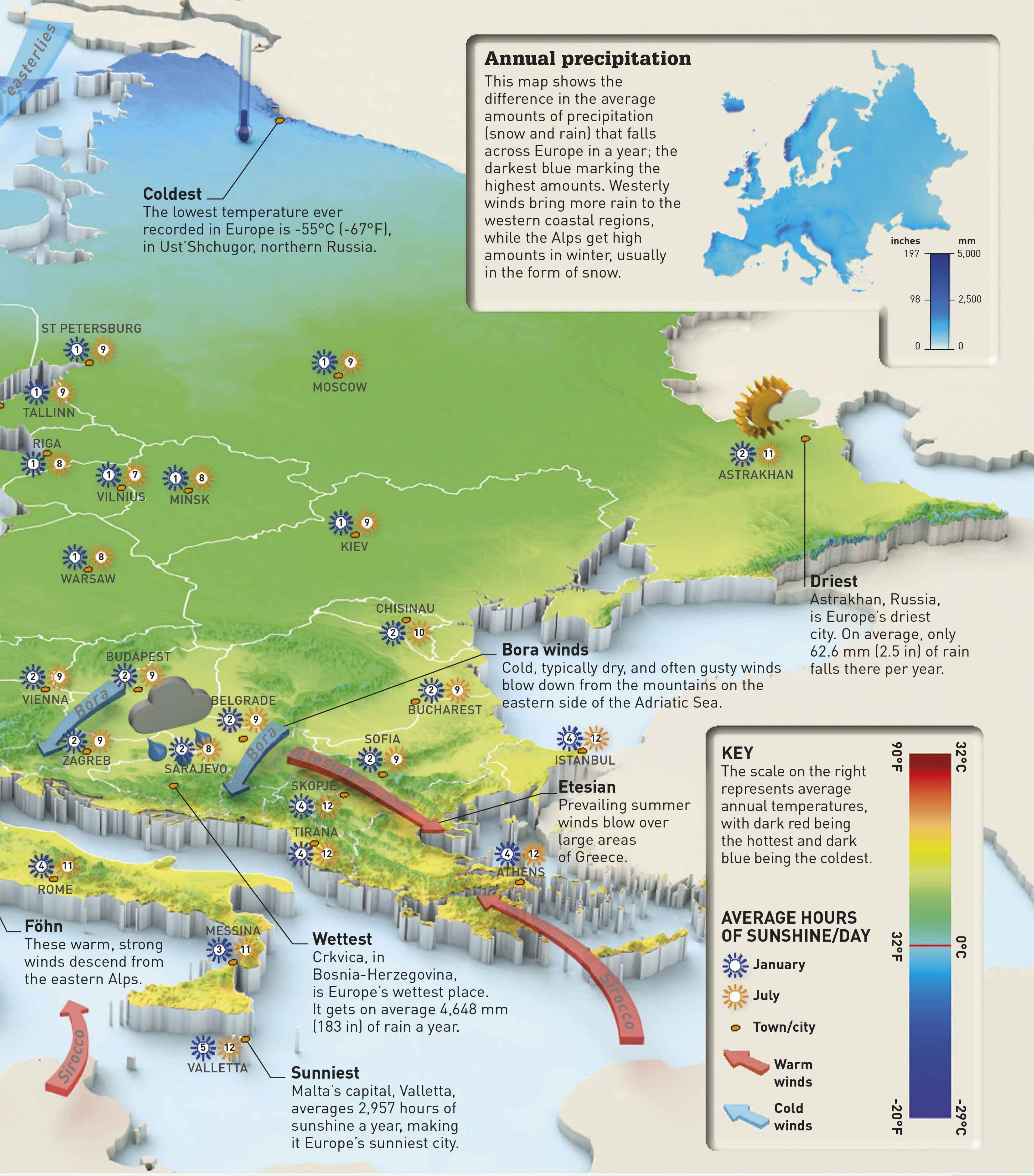
Cloudiest
Glasgow, in the United Kingdom, is Europe's cloudiest city. It averages only 1,203 hours of sunshine a year.

Mistral
A strong, cold wind that blows hardest in winter and spring.

Hottest
The highest temperature recorded in Europe is 50°C (122°F), in Seville, Spain, on 4 August 1881.

Sirocco winds
Hot air from Africa creates storms over the sea, bringing cloud, fog, and rain to northern Mediterranean locations.

ON 7 JULY 1889, 205.7 MM (8.1 IN) OF RAIN FELL AT THE CITY OF


easterlies
ST PETERSBURG 1 9
MOSCOW 1 9
TALLINN 1 9
RIGA 1 8
VILNIUS 1 7
MINSK 1 8
ASTRAKHAN 2 11
KIEV 1 9
WARSAW 1 8
CHISINAU 2 10
BUDAPEST 2 9
VIENNA 2 9
Bora
BELGRADE 2 9
BUCHAREST 2 9
ZAGREB 2 9
SARAJEVO 2 8
Bora
SOFIA 2 9
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SKOPJE 4 12
TIRANA 4 12
ATHENS 4 12
ROME 4 11
MESSINA 3 11
Sirocco
VALLETTA 5 12
Sirocco
inches
mm
197
5,000
98
2,500
0
0
90°F
32°C
32°F
0°C
-20°F
-29°C

Coldest

The lowest temperature ever recorded in Europe is -55°C (-67°F), in Ust'Shchugor, northern Russia.

Annual precipitation

This map shows the difference in the average amounts of precipitation (snow and rain) that falls across Europe in a year; the darkest blue marking the highest amounts. Westerly winds bring more rain to the western coastal regions, while the Alps get high amounts in winter, usually in the form of snow.

Driest

Astrakhan, Russia, is Europe's driest city. On average, only 62.6 mm (2.5 in) of rain falls there per year.

Bora winds

Cold, typically dry, and often gusty winds blow down from the mountains on the eastern side of the Adriatic Sea.

Etesian

Prevailing summer winds blow over large areas of Greece.

Föhn

These warm, strong winds descend from the eastern Alps.

Wettest

Crkvica, in Bosnia-Herzegovina, is Europe's wettest place. It gets on average 4,648 mm (183 in) of rain a year.

Sunniest

Malta's capital, Valletta, averages 2,957 hours of sunshine a year, making it Europe's sunniest city.

KEY

The scale on the right represents average annual temperatures, with dark red being the hottest and dark blue being the coldest.

AVERAGE HOURS OF SUNSHINE/DAY

January

July

Town/city

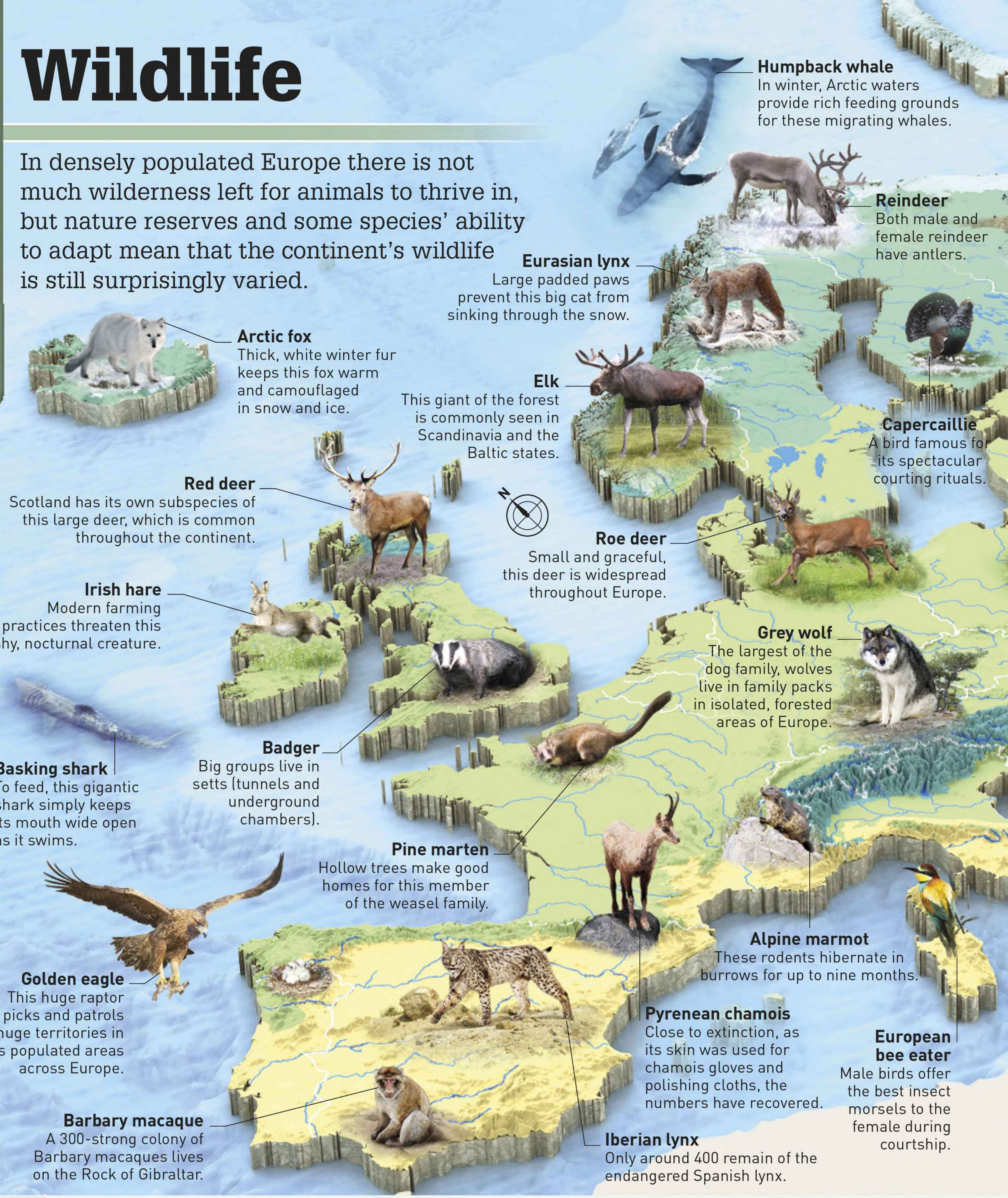
Warm winds

Cold winds

CURTEA-DE-ARGES, ROMANIA, IN 20 MINUTES - A WORLD RECORD.

Wildlife

In densely populated Europe there is not much wilderness left for animals to thrive in, but nature reserves and some species' ability to adapt mean that the continent's wildlife is still surprisingly varied.



Humpback whale
In winter, Arctic waters provide rich feeding grounds for these migrating whales.

Reindeer
Both male and female reindeer have antlers.

Eurasian lynx
Large padded paws prevent this big cat from sinking through the snow.

Arctic fox
Thick, white winter fur keeps this fox warm and camouflaged in snow and ice.

Elk
This giant of the forest is commonly seen in Scandinavia and the Baltic states.

Capercaillie
A bird famous for its spectacular courting rituals.

Red deer
Scotland has its own subspecies of this large deer, which is common throughout the continent.

Roe deer
Small and graceful, this deer is widespread throughout Europe.

Irish hare
Modern farming practices threaten this shy, nocturnal creature.

Grey wolf
The largest of the dog family, wolves live in family packs in isolated, forested areas of Europe.

Badger
Big groups live in setts (tunnels and underground chambers).

Basking shark
To feed, this gigantic shark simply keeps its mouth wide open as it swims.

Pine marten
Hollow trees make good homes for this member of the weasel family.

Alpine marmot
These rodents hibernate in burrows for up to nine months.

Golden eagle
This huge raptor picks and patrols huge territories in less populated areas across Europe.

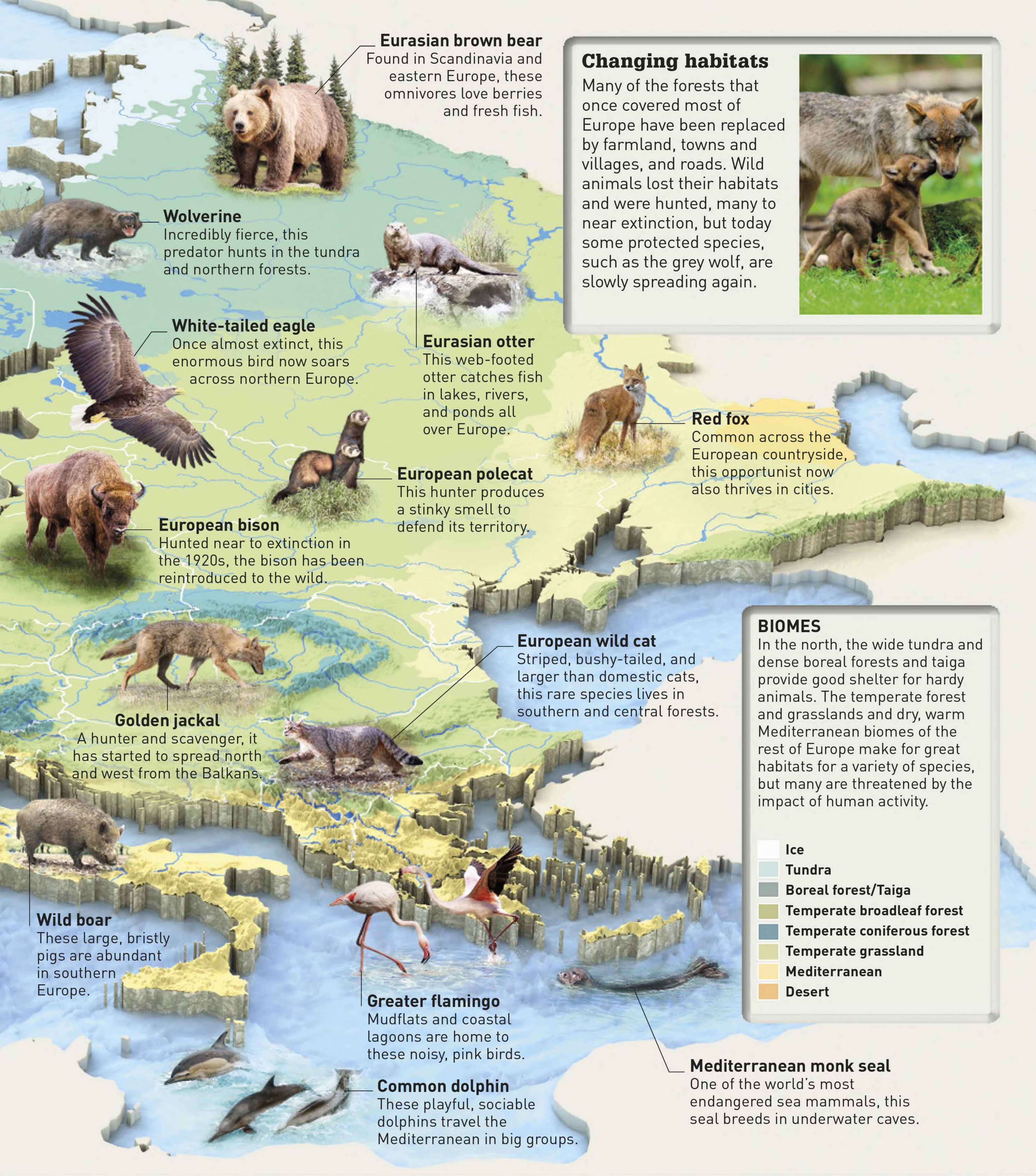
Pyrenean chamois
Close to extinction, as its skin was used for chamois gloves and polishing cloths, the numbers have recovered.

European bee eater
Male birds offer the best insect morsels to the female during courtship.

Barbary macaque
A 300-strong colony of Barbary macaques lives on the Rock of Gibraltar.

Iberian lynx
Only around 400 remain of the endangered Spanish lynx.

EUROPE ONLY HAS ABOUT 260 SPECIES OF



Changing habitats

Many of the forests that once covered most of Europe have been replaced by farmland, towns and villages, and roads. Wild animals lost their habitats and were hunted, many to near extinction, but today some protected species, such as the grey wolf, are slowly spreading again.

Eurasian brown bear
Found in Scandinavia and eastern Europe, these omnivores love berries and fresh fish.

Wolverine
Incredibly fierce, this predator hunts in the tundra and northern forests.

White-tailed eagle
Once almost extinct, this enormous bird now soars across northern Europe.

Eurasian otter
This web-footed otter catches fish in lakes, rivers, and ponds all over Europe.

Red fox
Common across the European countryside, this opportunist now also thrives in cities.

European polecat
This hunter produces a stinky smell to defend its territory.

European bison
Hunted near to extinction in the 1920s, the bison has been reintroduced to the wild.

European wild cat
Striped, bushy-tailed, and larger than domestic cats, this rare species lives in southern and central forests.

Golden jackal
A hunter and scavenger, it has started to spread north and west from the Balkans.

Wild boar
These large, bristly pigs are abundant in southern Europe.

Greater flamingo
Mudflats and coastal lagoons are home to these noisy, pink birds.

Common dolphin
These playful, sociable dolphins travel the Mediterranean in big groups.

Mediterranean monk seal
One of the world's most endangered sea mammals, this seal breeds in underwater caves.

BIOMES

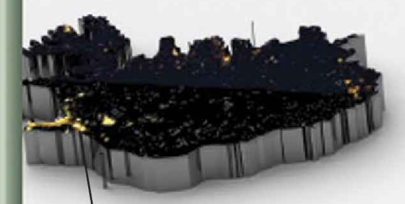
In the north, the wide tundra and dense boreal forests and taiga provide good shelter for hardy animals. The temperate forest and grasslands and dry, warm Mediterranean biomes of the rest of Europe make for great habitats for a variety of species, but many are threatened by the impact of human activity.

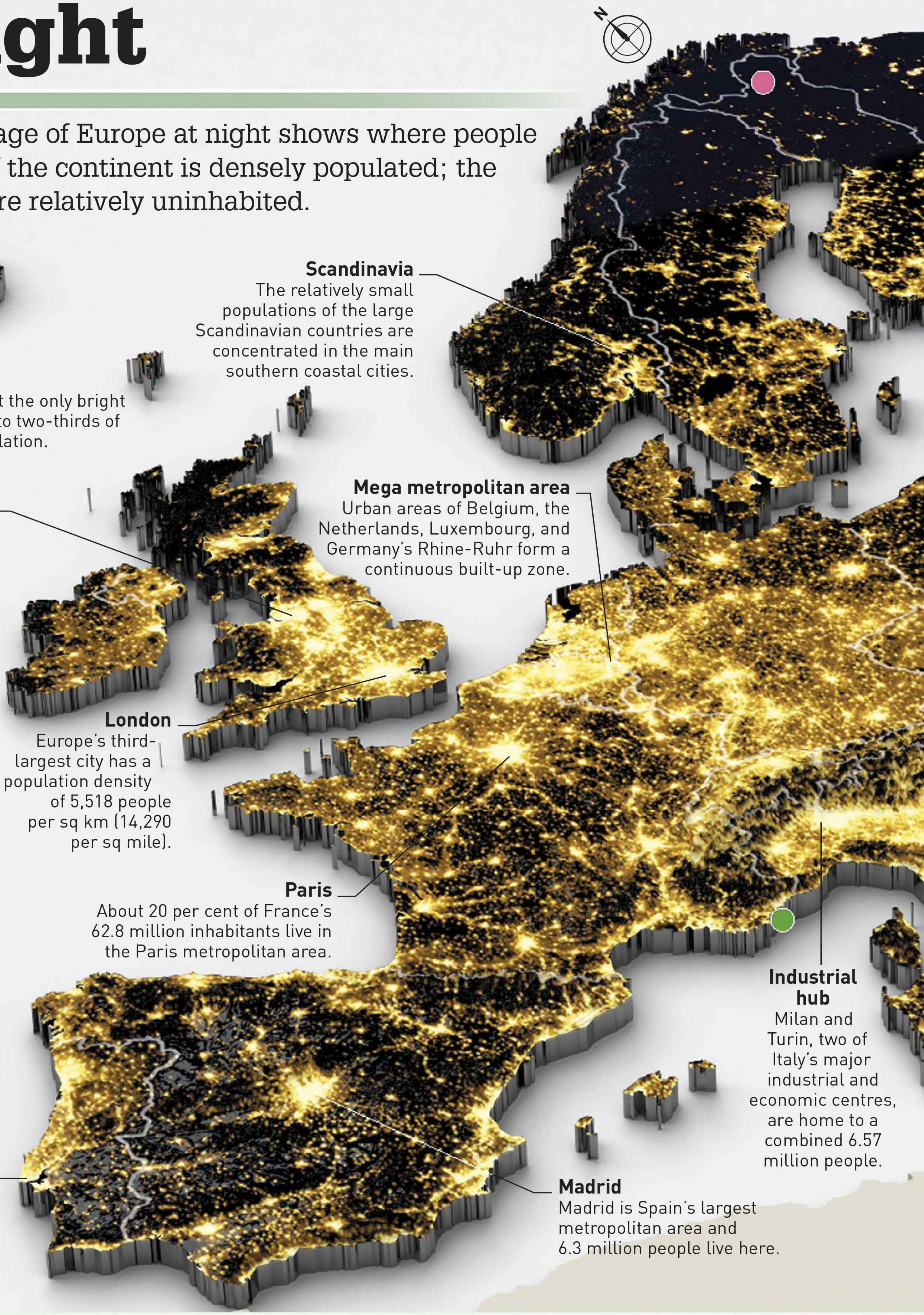
- ▨ **Ice**
- ▨ **Tundra**
- ▨ **Boreal forest/Taiga**
- ▨ **Temperate broadleaf forest**
- ▨ **Temperate coniferous forest**
- ▨ **Temperate grassland**
- ▨ **Mediterranean**
- ▨ **Desert**

MAMMAL LEFT, OF WHICH 219 LIVE ON LAND.

By night

This satellite image of Europe at night shows where people live. The west of the continent is densely populated; the north and east are relatively uninhabited.





Iceland
Reykjavík is almost the only bright spot, and is home to two-thirds of the country's population.

Scandinavia
The relatively small populations of the large Scandinavian countries are concentrated in the main southern coastal cities.

Northwest England
The triangle formed by the cities of Liverpool, Manchester, and Birmingham is densely populated.

Mega metropolitan area
Urban areas of Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, and Germany's Rhine-Ruhr form a continuous built-up zone.

London
Europe's third-largest city has a population density of 5,518 people per sq km (14,290 per sq mile).

Paris
About 20 per cent of France's 62.8 million inhabitants live in the Paris metropolitan area.

Industrial hub
Milan and Turin, two of Italy's major industrial and economic centres, are home to a combined 6.57 million people.

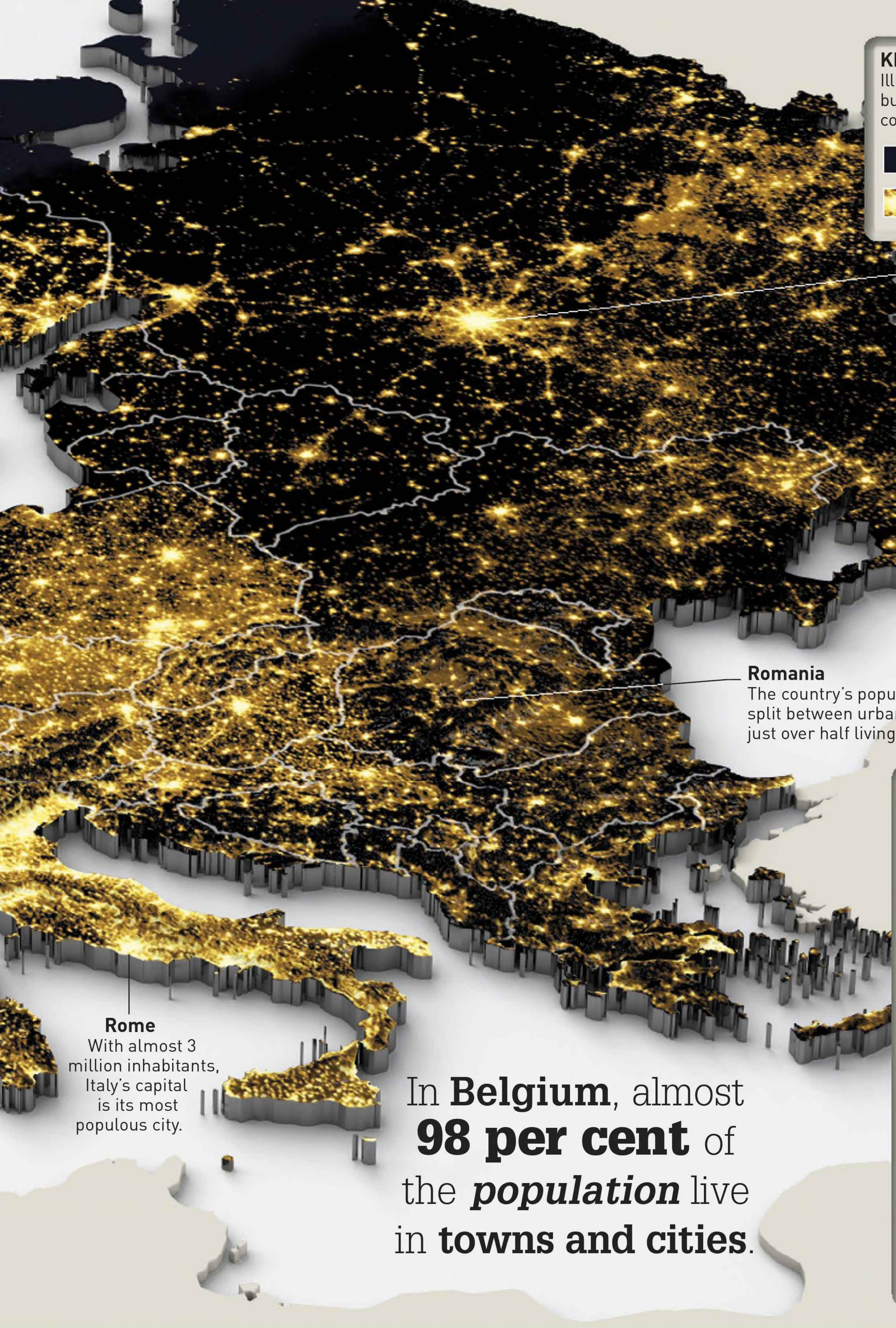
Lisbon
Just over one-quarter (26.2 per cent) of Portugal's 10.8 million inhabitants live in the metropolitan area of Lisbon.

Madrid
Madrid is Spain's largest metropolitan area and 6.3 million people live here.

● Urban Monaco

The small principality of Monaco, squeezed into an area of only 2 sq km (0.78 sq miles), is all city. Every one of its 30,581 inhabitants lives in an urban environment.

ALBANIA IS THE COUNTRY WITH THE FASTEST GROWING



KEY

Illuminated areas reflect urban, built-up zones and roads, in contrast to rural regions.

⬛ **Rural area**

🟨 **Urban area**

Moscow
Russia's capital and its many sprawling suburbs are home to 17 million people.

Romania
The country's population is almost evenly split between urban and rural areas, with just over half living in towns and cities.

Rome
With almost 3 million inhabitants, Italy's capital is its most populous city.

In **Belgium**, almost **98 per cent** of the ***population*** live in **towns and cities**.

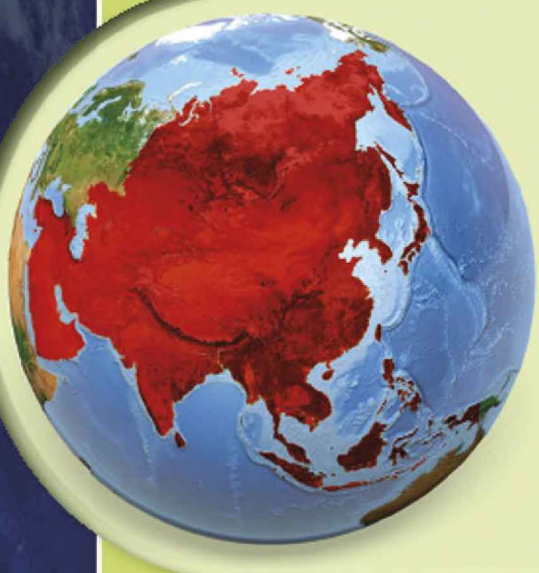
The empty north

Northern Europe's great swathes of forests and tundra are almost unpopulated, except for some small villages and isolated, industrial centres.

In Lapland, near the Arctic Circle in northern Scandinavia, there are few towns and the population density is very low.

URBAN POPULATION IN EUROPE, AT A RATE OF 2.21 PER CENT.

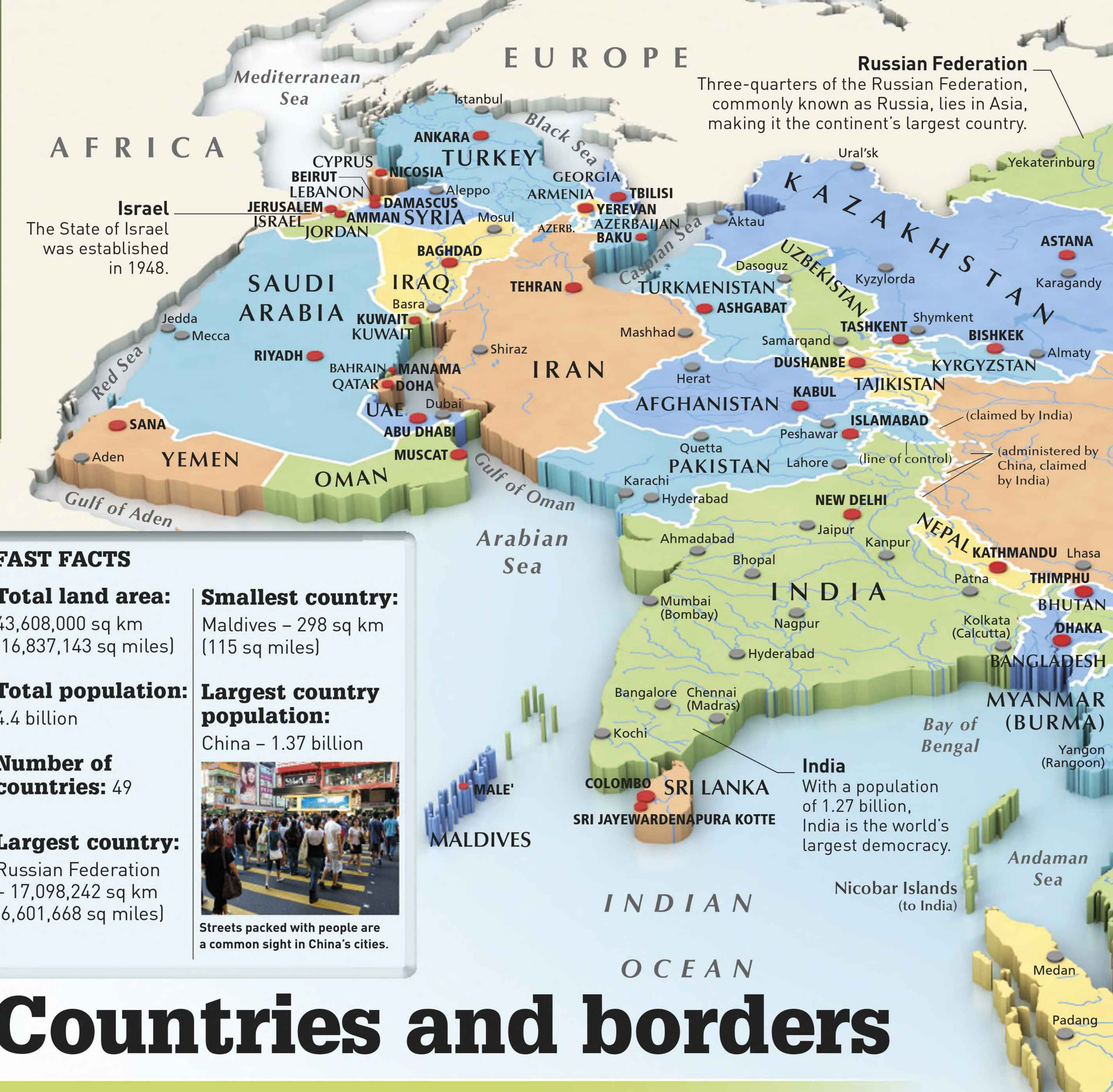
ASIA



Mighty continent
Asia extends from the Arctic Ocean in the north to the Indian Ocean in the south, and from the Pacific Ocean in the east, to the Ural Mountains, the Suez Canal, the Bosphorus Strait, and the Caucasus Mountains in the west.

Countries and borders

The vast continent of Asia includes two giant nations – China and India, each with a population of more than a billion people and with rapidly growing economies. To the north is the world's biggest country by area – the Russian Federation. To the west lie the countries of the Middle East, today the centre of the Islamic world.


EUROPE
AFRICA
Mediterranean Sea
Black Sea
Caspian Sea
Red Sea
Gulf of Aden
Gulf of Oman
Arabian Sea
Bay of Bengal
Andaman Sea
INDIAN OCEAN
Istanbul
ANKARA
TURKEY
CYPRUS
NICOSIA
BEIRUT
LEBANON
Aleppo
DAMASCUS
SYRIA
JERUSALEM
ISRAEL
AMMAN
JORDAN
Mosul
GEORGIA
ARMENIA
TBILISI
YEREVAN
AZERB.
AZERBAIJAN
BAKU
BAGHDAD
IRAQ
Basra
KUWAIT
KUWAIT
TEHRAN
IRAN
Shiraz
SAUDI ARABIA
Jedda
Mecca
RIYADH
BAHRAIN
MANAMA
QATAR
DOHA
UAE
Dubai
ABU DHABI
MUSCAT
OMAN
SANA
Aden
YEMEN
Aktau
Ural'sk
Yekaterinburg
KAZAKHSTAN
ASTANA
Karagandy
Kyzylorda
Shymkent
Almaty
BISHKEK
KYRGYZSTAN
Dasoguz
UZBEKISTAN
TURKMENISTAN
ASHGABAT
Mashhad
Samarqand
TASHKENT
DUSHANBE
TAJIKISTAN
Herat
KABUL
AFGHANISTAN
ISLAMABAD
Peshawar
Quetta
PAKISTAN
Lahore
Karachi
Hyderabad
(claimed by India)
(line of control)
(administered by China, claimed by India)
NEW DELHI
Jaipur
Kanpur
Ahmadabad
Bhopal
NEPAL
KATHMANDU
Lhasa
THIMPHU
BHUTAN
Patna
INDIA
Mumbai (Bombay)
Nagpur
Kolkata (Calcutta)
DHAKA
BANGLADESH
Hyderabad
Bangalore
Chennai (Madras)
Kochi
MYANMAR (BURMA)
Yangon (Rangoon)
COLOMBO
SRI LANKA
SRI JAYEWARDENAPURA KOTTE
MALE'
MALDIVES
Nicobar Islands (to India)
Medan
Padang

Russian Federation Three-quarters of the Russian Federation, commonly known as Russia, lies in Asia, making it the continent's largest country.

Israel The State of Israel was established in 1948.

India With a population of 1.27 billion, India is the world's largest democracy.

Indonesia The world's largest island nation, Indonesia is made up of more than 13,000 islands.

FAST FACTS

Total land area: 43,608,000 sq km (16,837,143 sq miles)

Total population: 4.4 billion

Number of countries: 49

Largest country: Russian Federation – 17,098,242 sq km (6,601,668 sq miles)

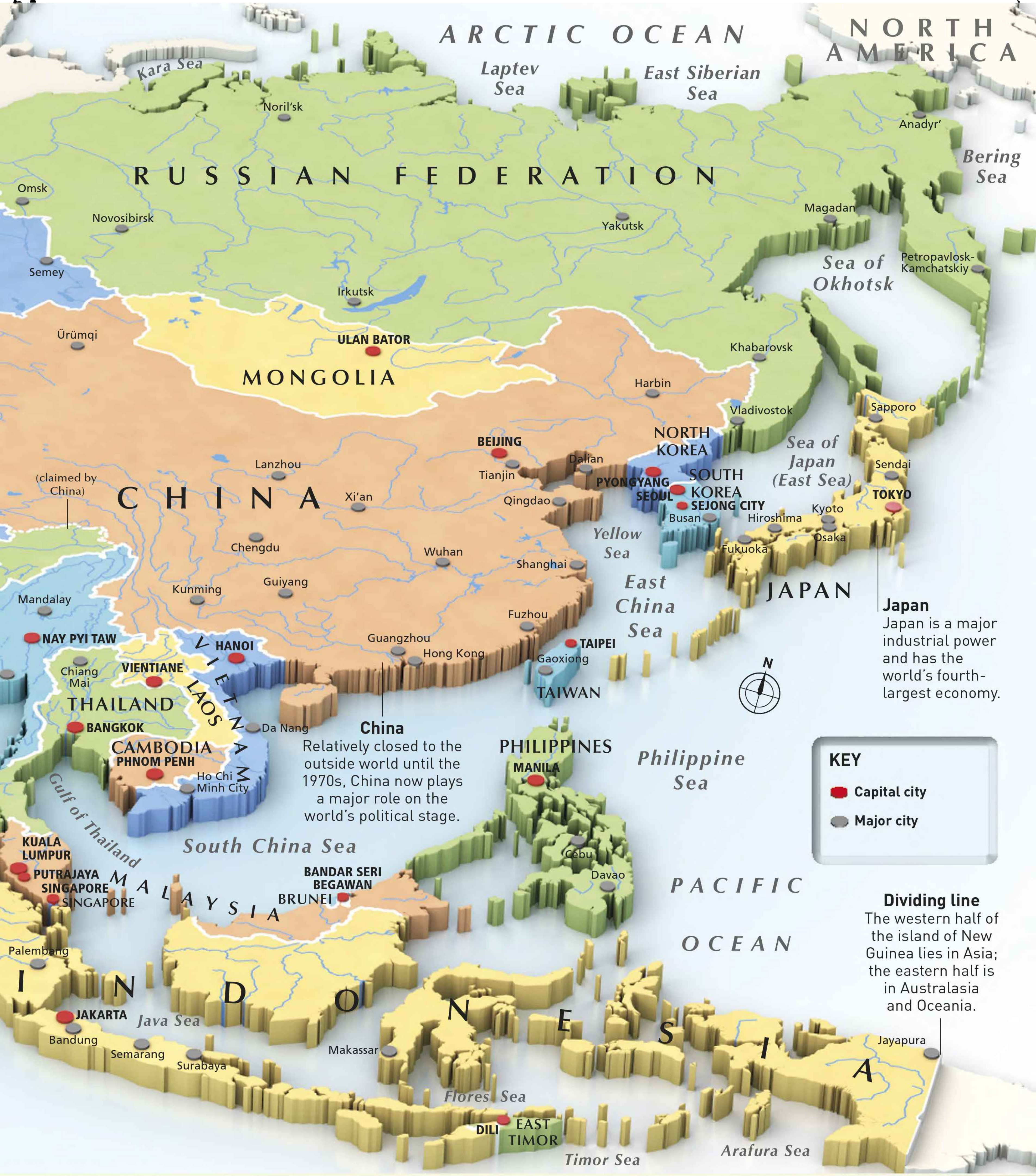
Smallest country: Maldives – 298 sq km (115 sq miles)

Largest country population: China – 1.37 billion

Streets packed with people are a common sight in China's cities.

https://sanet.st/blogs/polatebooks/

ASIA IS THE ONLY CONTINENT IN THE WORLD THAT


ARCTIC OCEAN
NORTH AMERICA
Kara Sea
Laptev Sea
East Siberian Sea
Noril'sk
Anadyr'
Bering Sea
RUSSIAN FEDERATION
Omsk
Novosibirsk
Yakutsk
Magadan
Semey
Sea of Okhotsk
Petropavlosk-Kamchatskiy
Irkutsk
Ürümqi
ULAN BATOR
MONGOLIA
Khabarovsk
Harbin
Vladivostok
Sapporo
NORTH KOREA
Sea of Japan (East Sea)
BEIJING
Dalian
Tianjin
Lanzhou
(claimed by China)
CHINA
Xi'an
Qingdao
PYONGYANG
SEOUL
SOUTH KOREA
SEJONG CITY
Busan
Sendai
TOKYO
Kyoto
Hiroshima
Osaka
Fukuoka
Yellow Sea
Chengdu
Wuhan
Shanghai
East China Sea
JAPAN
Kunming
Guiyang
Mandalay
Fuzhou
NAY PYI TAW
HANOI
Guangzhou
Hong Kong
TAIPEI
Gaoxiong
TAIWAN
Chiang Mai
VIENTIANE
VIETNAM
LAOS
THAILAND
BANGKOK
Da Nang
CAMBODIA
PHNOM PENH
Ho Chi Minh City
PHILIPPINES
MANILA
Philippine Sea
Gulf of Thailand
South China Sea
Cebu
Davao
KUALA LUMPUR
PUTRAJAYA
SINGAPORE
SINGAPORE
MALAYSIA
BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN
BRUNEI
PACIFIC OCEAN
Palembang
INDONESIA
JAKARTA
Java Sea
Bandung
Semarang
Surabaya
Makassar
Jayapura
Flores Sea
DILI
EAST TIMOR
Timor Sea
Arafura Sea
N
KEY
Capital city
Major city

China
Relatively closed to the outside world until the 1970s, China now plays a major role on the world's political stage.

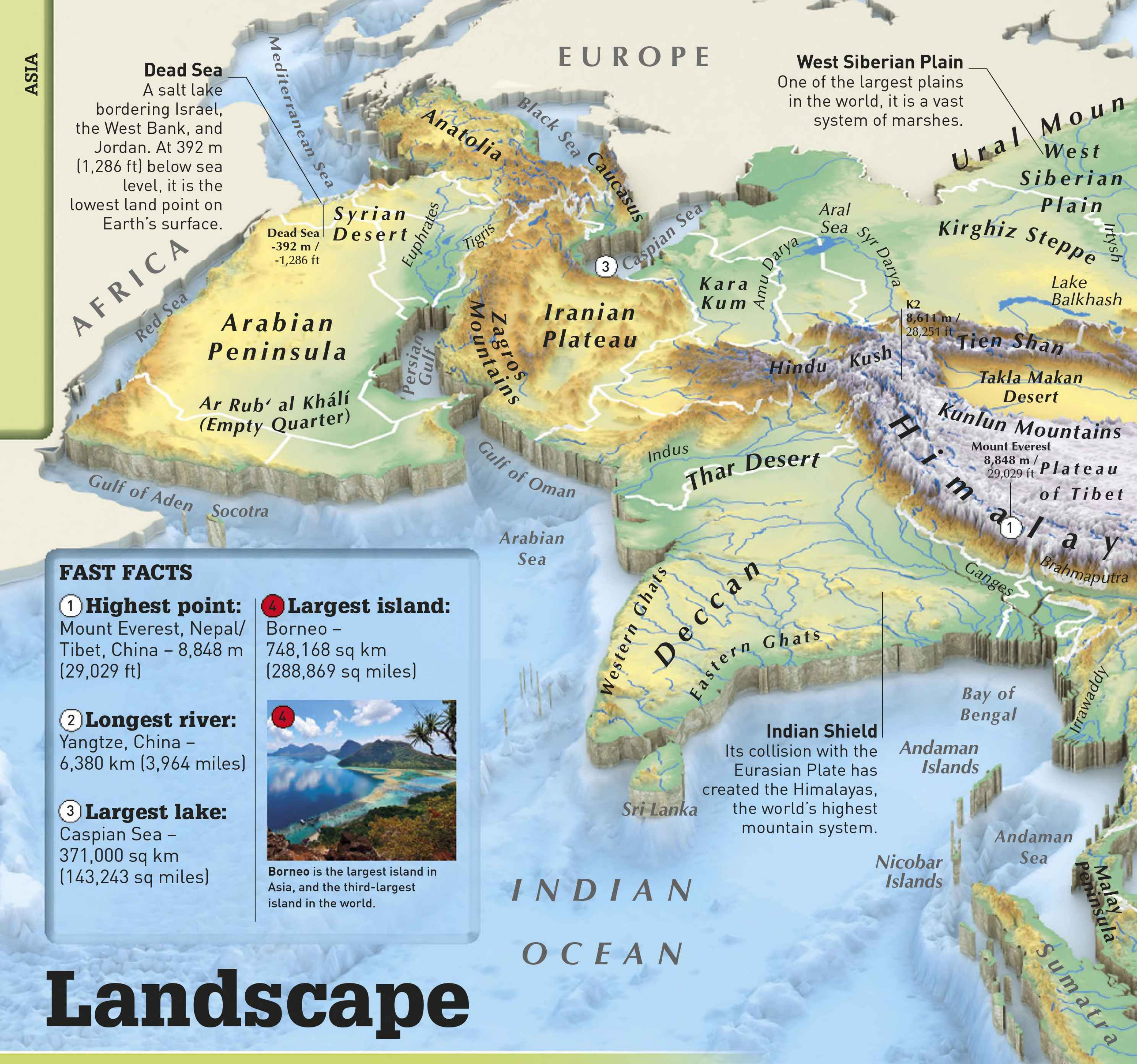
Japan
Japan is a major industrial power and has the world's fourth-largest economy.

Dividing line
The western half of the island of New Guinea lies in Asia; the eastern half is in Australasia and Oceania.

SHARES BORDERS WITH THREE OTHER CONTINENTS.

Landscape

Asia covers approximately 30 per cent of Earth's land area and makes up the eastern portion of the Eurasian supercontinent (with Europe lying to the west). It is made up of five different landscapes: mountain systems, plateaus, plains, steppes (large areas of unforested grassland), and deserts.


EUROPE
AFRICA
Mediterranean Sea
Black Sea
Anatolia
Caucasus
Caspian Sea
③
Syrian Desert
Dead Sea
-392 m /
-1,286 ft
Euphrates
Tigris
Red Sea
Arabian Peninsula
Persian Gulf
Zagros Mountains
Iranian Plateau
Ar Rub' al Khálí (Empty Quarter)
Gulf of Aden
Socotra
Gulf of Oman
Arabian Sea
Kara Kum
Amu Darya
Aral Sea
Syr Darya
Ural Moun
West Siberian Plain
Kirghiz Steppe
Irtysh
Lake Balkhash
K2
8,611 m /
28,251 ft
Tien Shan
Hindu Kush
Takla Makan Desert
Kunlun Mountains
Mount Everest
8,848 m /
29,029 ft
Plateau of Tibet
Himalaya
①
Indus
Thar Desert
Ganges
Brahmaputra
Deccan
Western Ghats
Eastern Ghats
Sri Lanka
Bay of Bengal
Irrawaddy
Andaman Islands
Andaman Sea
Nicobar Islands
Malay Peninsula
Sumatra
INDIAN OCEAN

Dead Sea
A salt lake bordering Israel, the West Bank, and Jordan. At 392 m (1,286 ft) below sea level, it is the lowest land point on Earth's surface.

West Siberian Plain
One of the largest plains in the world, it is a vast system of marshes.

Indian Shield
Its collision with the Eurasian Plate has created the Himalayas, the world's highest mountain system.

Indonesian islands
Indonesia is the most volcanic country in the world. It is home to 147 volcanoes, 76 of which are active.

FAST FACTS

① **Highest point:**
Mount Everest, Nepal/Tibet, China – 8,848 m (29,029 ft)

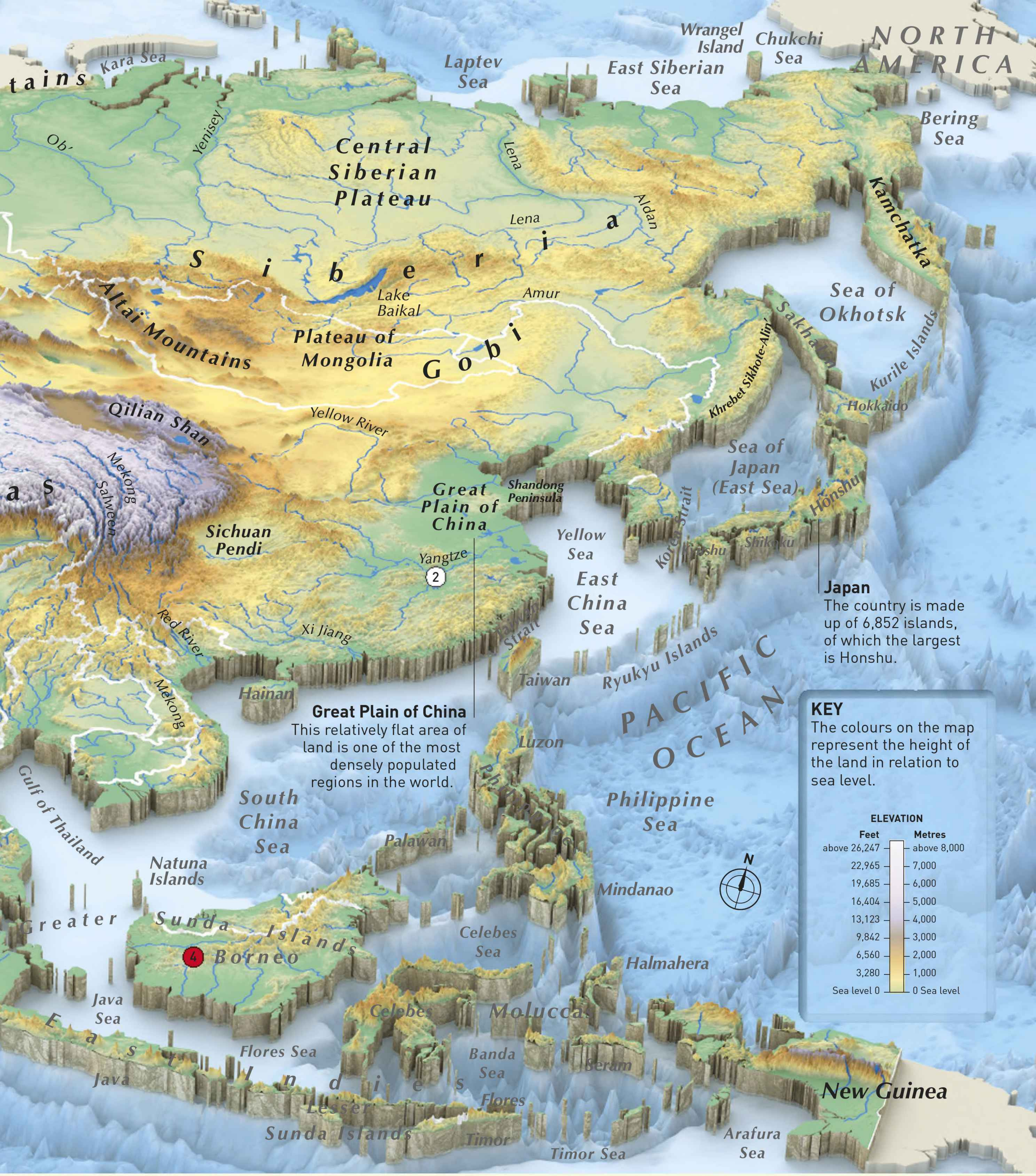
② **Longest river:**
Yangtze, China – 6,380 km (3,964 miles)

③ **Largest lake:**
Caspian Sea – 371,000 sq km (143,243 sq miles)

④ **Largest island:**
Borneo – 748,168 sq km (288,869 sq miles)

Borneo is the largest island in Asia, and the third-largest island in the world.

ASIA, THE WORLD'S LARGEST CONTINENT, HAS BOTH THE HIGHEST


tains
Kara Sea
Laptev Sea
Wrangel Island
East Siberian Sea
Chukchi Sea
NORTH AMERICA
Bering Sea
Ob'
Yenisey
Central Siberian Plateau
Lena
Aldan
Lena
Siberia
Kamchatka
Sea of Okhotsk
Lake Baikal
Amur
Altai Mountains
Plateau of Mongolia
Gobi
Sakhalin
Kurile Islands
Khrebet Sikhote-Alin'
Hokkaido
Qilian Shan
Yellow River
Sea of Japan (East Sea)
Honshu
as
Mekong
Salween
Great Plain of China
Shandong Peninsula
Sichuan Pendi
Yangtze
2
Yellow Sea
Korea Strait
Kyushu
Shikoku
East China Sea
Red River
Xi Jiang
Taiwan Strait
Taiwan
Ryukyu Islands
PACIFIC OCEAN
Hainan
Mekong
Luzon
Philippines
Gulf of Thailand
South China Sea
Philippine Sea
Palawan
Natuna Islands
N
Mindanao
Greater Sunda Islands
Borneo
4
Celebes Sea
Halmahera
Java Sea
Celebes
Moluccas
East Indies
Flores Sea
Banda Sea
Seram
Java
Flores
Lesser Sunda Islands
Timor
Timor Sea
Arafura Sea
New Guinea
ELEVATION
Feet
Metres
above 26,247
22,965
19,685
16,404
13,123
9,842
6,560
3,280
Sea level 0
above 8,000
7,000
6,000
5,000
4,000
3,000
2,000
1,000
0 Sea level

Japan
The country is made up of 6,852 islands, of which the largest is Honshu.

Great Plain of China
This relatively flat area of land is one of the most densely populated regions in the world.

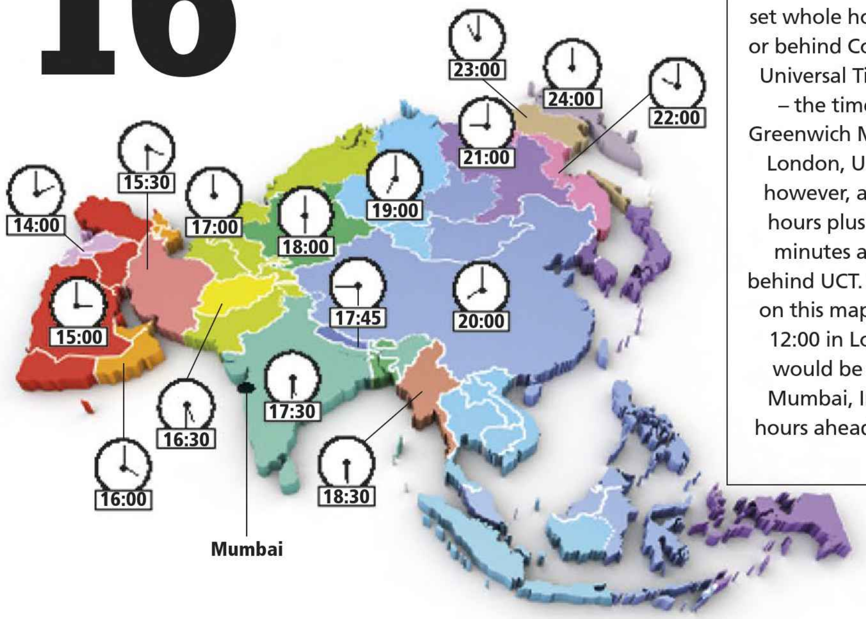
KEY
The colours on the map represent the height of the land in relation to sea level.

(MOUNT EVEREST) AND LOWEST (DEAD SEA) LAND POINTS ON EARTH.

Fascinating facts

Number of time zones

16



12:00

The world is split into 39 time zones. Most are set whole hours ahead or behind Coordinated Universal Time (UCT) – the time at the Greenwich Meridian in London, UK. Some, however, are whole hours plus 30 or 45 minutes ahead or behind UCT. Therefore, on this map, if it was 12:00 in London, it would be 17:30 in Mumbai, India (5½ hours ahead of UCT).

13 Landlocked countries

Afghanistan ▪ Armenia ▪ Azerbaijan ▪ Belarus ▪ Bhutan ▪ Kazakhstan ▪ Kyrgyzstan ▪ Laos ▪ Mongolia ▪ Nepal ▪ Tajikistan ▪ Turkmenistan ▪ Uzbekistan

Fastest train

Shanghai Maglev Train, China –
430 km/h (267.2 mph)

Longest tunnels

Railway tunnel
Seikan Tunnel, Tsugaru Strait, Japan – 53.85 km (33.5 miles)

Metro line
Guangzhou Metro Line 3, Guangzhou, China – 60.4 km (37.5 miles)

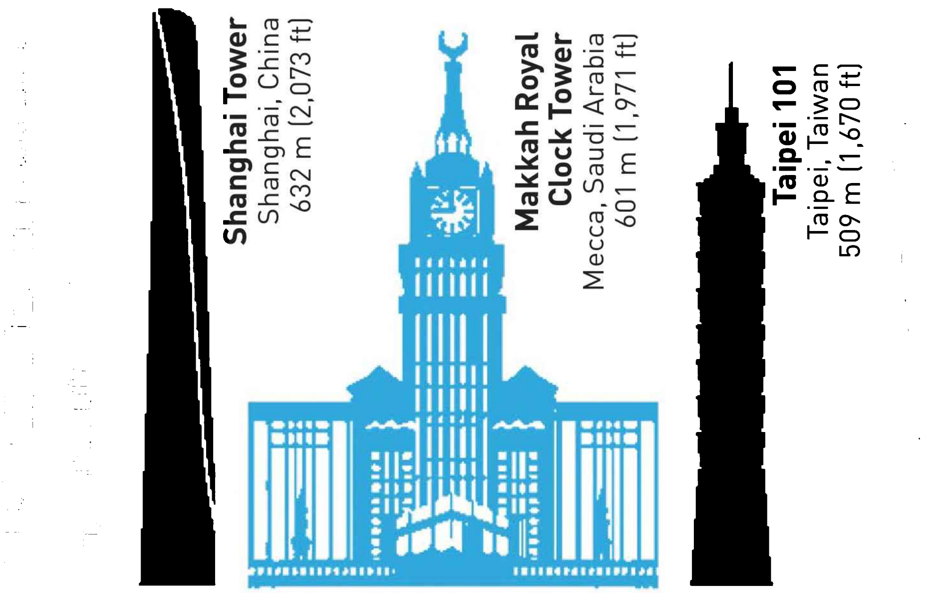
Road tunnel
Xishan Tunnel, Shanxi, China – 13.65 km (8.5 miles)

Longest coastline

Indonesia – **54,716 km (33,999 miles)**

Busiest airport Beijing International Airport, China – **90.203 million passengers per year**

Tallest buildings



Burj Khalifa
Dubai, UAE
828 m (2,715 ft)

Shanghai Tower
Shanghai, China
632 m (2,073 ft)

Makkah Royal Clock Tower
Mecca, Saudi Arabia
601 m (1,971 ft)

Taipei 101
Taipei, Taiwan
509 m (1,670 ft)

Shanghai World Finance Centre
Shanghai, China
492 m (1,614 ft)

Biggest glacier

Fedchenko Glacier, Tajikistan –
77 km (48 miles) long

The Fedchenko Glacier is the longest glacier in the world outside of the polar regions

WATERFALLS

Highest:
Hannoki Falls, Toyama, Japan – 500 m (1,640 ft)

Largest (by volume):
Chutes de Khone, Laos – 11,610 m³ (410,000 ft³) of water per second

Deepest lake

Lake Baikal,

Russian Federation –

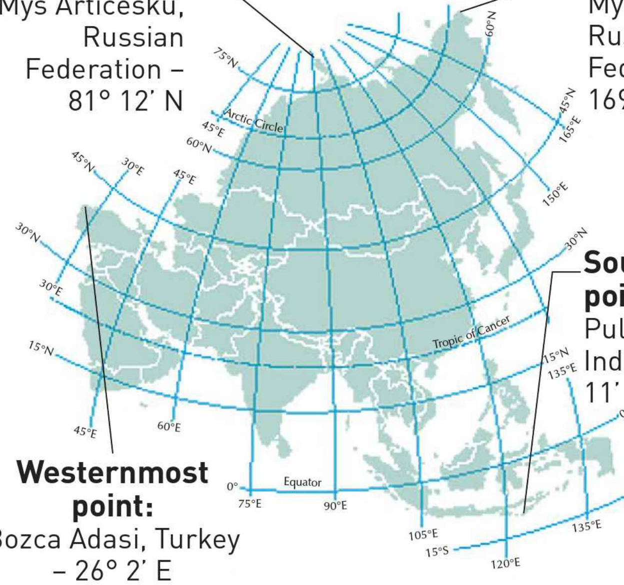
1,642 m (5,387 ft)

Lake Baikal is the deepest lake in the world

Most active volcano

Mount Merapi, Indonesia

Asia's extreme points



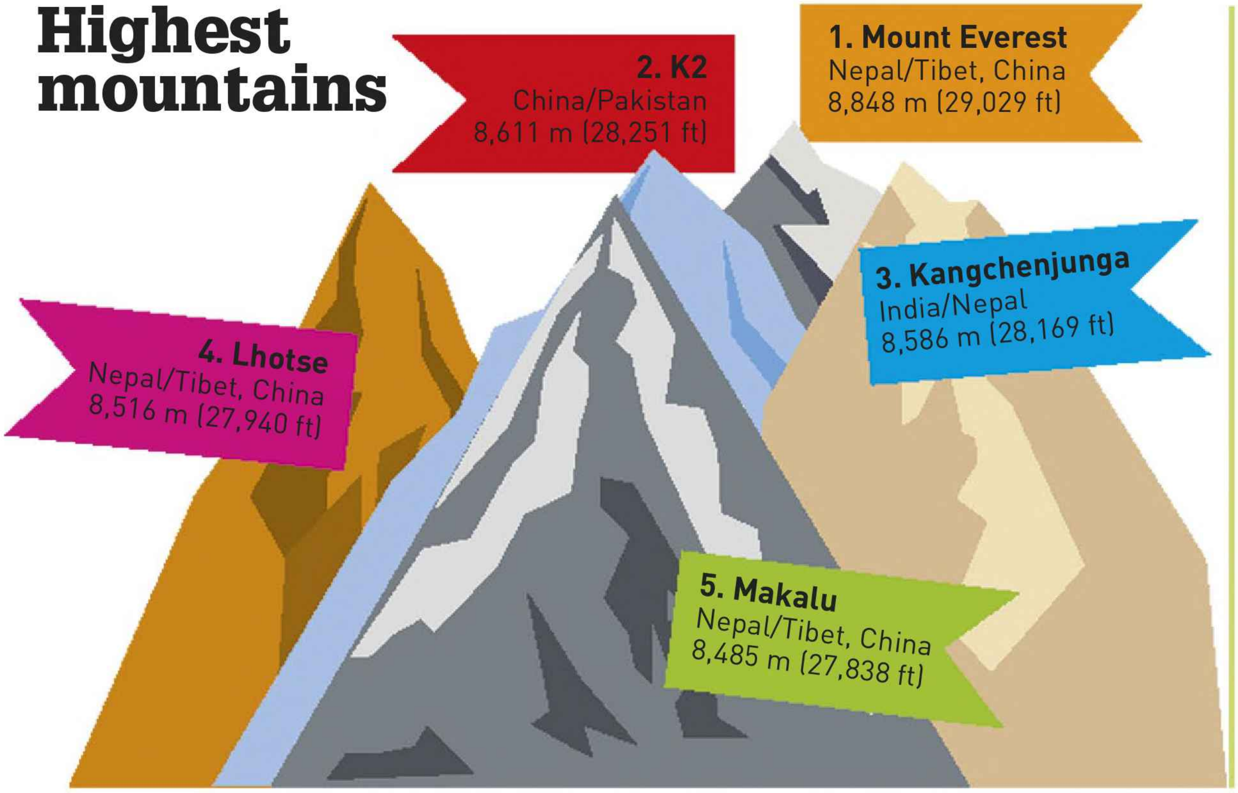
Northernmost point:
Mys Articesku, Russian Federation – 81° 12′ N

Easternmost point:
Mys Dezhneva, Russian Federation – 169° 40′ W

Southernmost point:
Pulau Panama, Indonesia – 11′ S

Westernmost point:
Bozca Adasi, Turkey – 26° 2′ E

Highest mountains



1. Mount Everest
Nepal/Tibet, China
8,848 m (29,029 ft)

2. K2
China/Pakistan
8,611 m (28,251 ft)

3. Kangchenjunga
India/Nepal
8,586 m (28,169 ft)

4. Lhotse
Nepal/Tibet, China
8,516 m (27,940 ft)

5. Makalu
Nepal/Tibet, China
8,485 m (27,838 ft)

Most visited cities (Visitors per year)

Bangkok, Thailand	18.24 million
Singapore	11.88 million
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	11.12 million
Seoul, South Korea	10.35 million
Hong Kong	8.66 million

Highest bridge

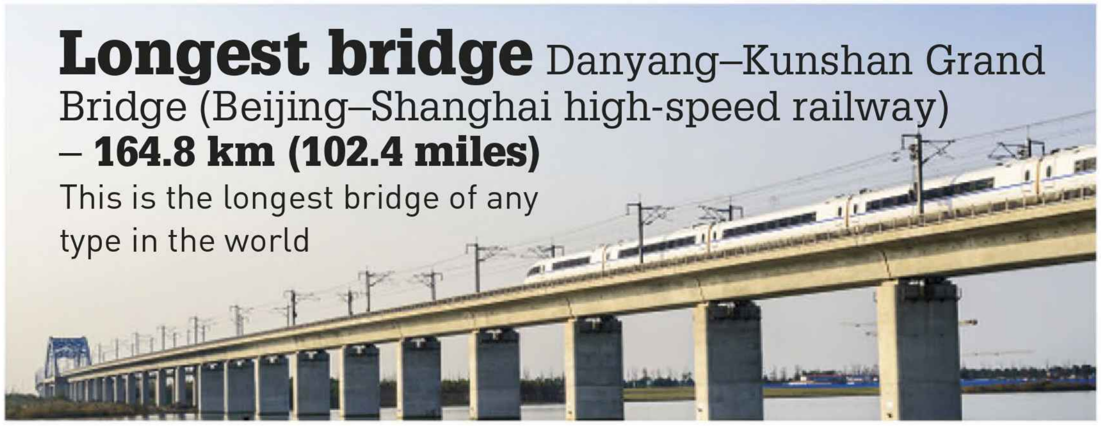
Sidu River Bridge, Yesanguan Township, Badong County, Hubei, China – **496 m (1,627 ft)**

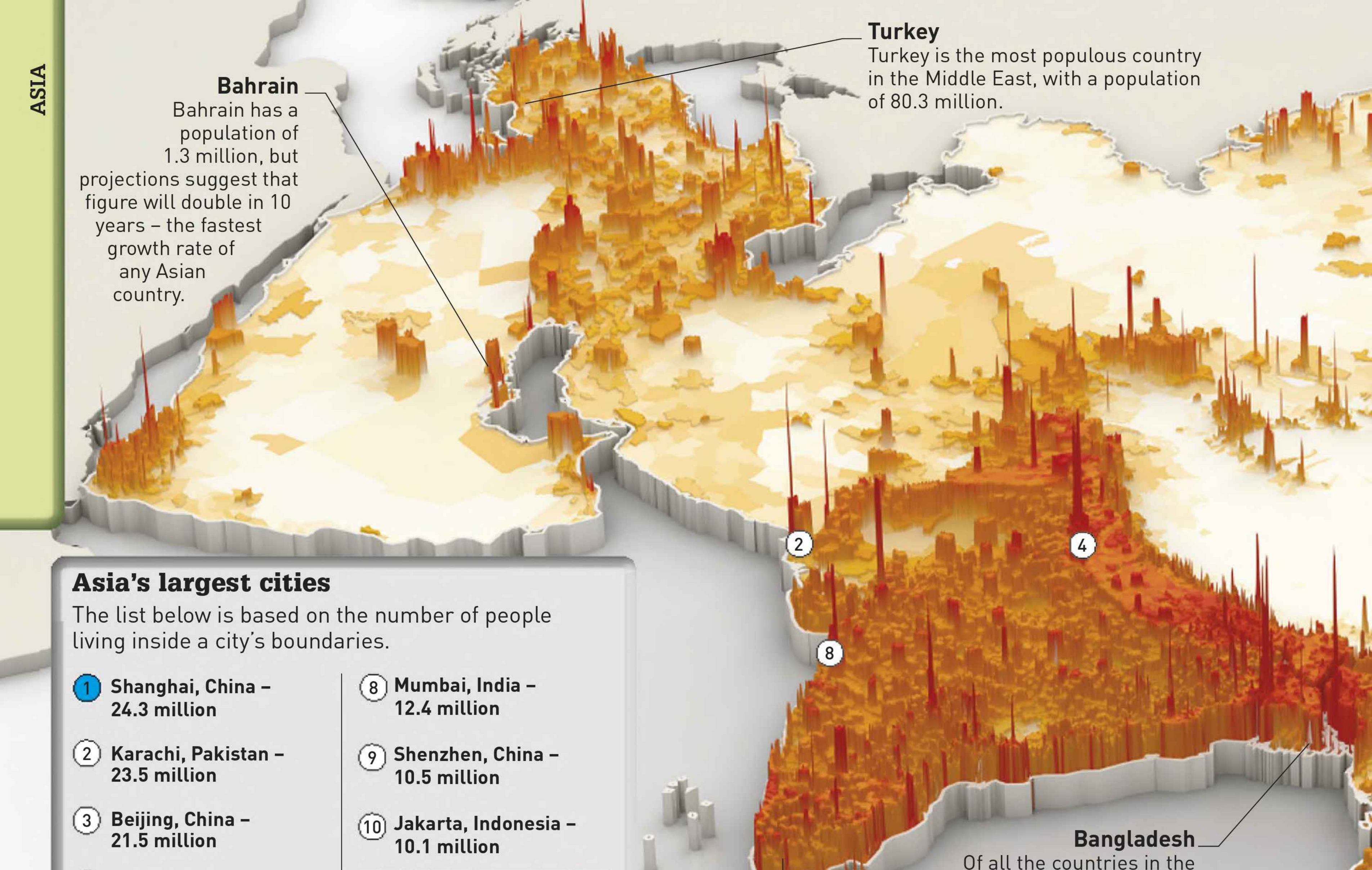
The world's three highest bridges are all in Asia:

- Sidu River Bridge – 496 m (1,627 ft)
- Puli Bridge– 485 m (1,591 ft)
- Qingshui River Bridge – 406 m (1,332 ft)

Longest bridge Danyang–Kunshan Grand Bridge (Beijing–Shanghai high-speed railway) – 164.8 km (102.4 miles)

This is the longest bridge of any type in the world





Turkey
Turkey is the most populous country in the Middle East, with a population of 80.3 million.

Bahrain
Bahrain has a population of 1.3 million, but projections suggest that figure will double in 10 years – the fastest growth rate of any Asian country.

Bangladesh
Of all the countries in the world with a population of over 100 million, Bangladesh has the highest population density – 1,138 people per sq km (2,948 per sq mile).

India
India has the world's second-largest population (1.27 billion), but is expected to be the world's most-populous country by 2028.

Asia's largest cities

The list below is based on the number of people living inside a city's boundaries.

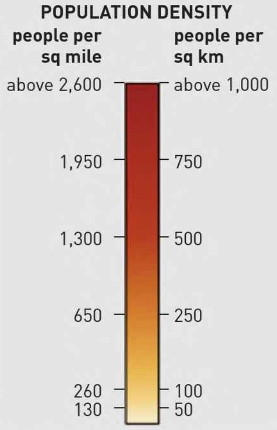
- ① **Shanghai, China – 24.3 million**
- ② **Karachi, Pakistan – 23.5 million**
- ③ **Beijing, China – 21.5 million**
- ④ **Delhi, India – 16.4 million**
- ⑤ **Tianjin, China – 15.2 million**
- ⑥ **Tokyo, Japan – 13.5 million**
- ⑦ **Guangzhou, China – 13.1 million**
- ⑧ **Mumbai, India – 12.4 million**
- ⑨ **Shenzhen, China – 10.5 million**
- ⑩ **Jakarta, Indonesia – 10.1 million**

The bright lights and busy streets of Tokyo – Japan's largest city.

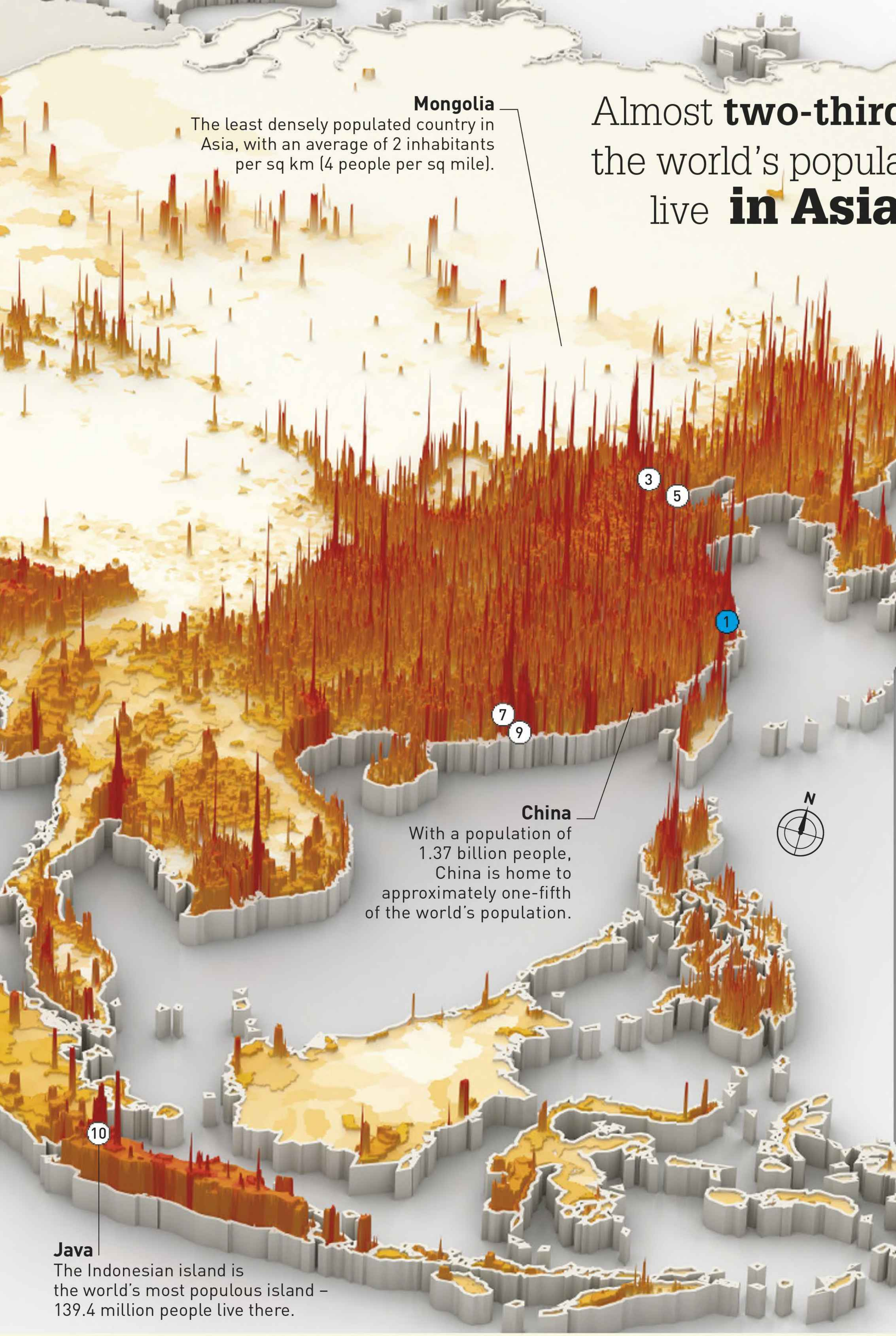
Population

Asia contains some of the most populous regions on Earth. The plains of eastern China, the Ganges-Brahmaputra rivers in India, Japan, and the Indonesian island of Jakarta all have very high population densities. By contrast, Siberia and the Plateau of Tibet are virtually uninhabited.

KEY
The colours represent the number of people living per square kilometre/square mile.



OVER HALF OF ASIA'S POPULATION OF 4.5 BILLION LIVES IN



Almost **two-thirds** of the world's population live **in Asia**.

Mongolia
The least densely populated country in Asia, with an average of 2 inhabitants per sq km (4 people per sq mile).

China
With a population of 1.37 billion people, China is home to approximately one-fifth of the world's population.

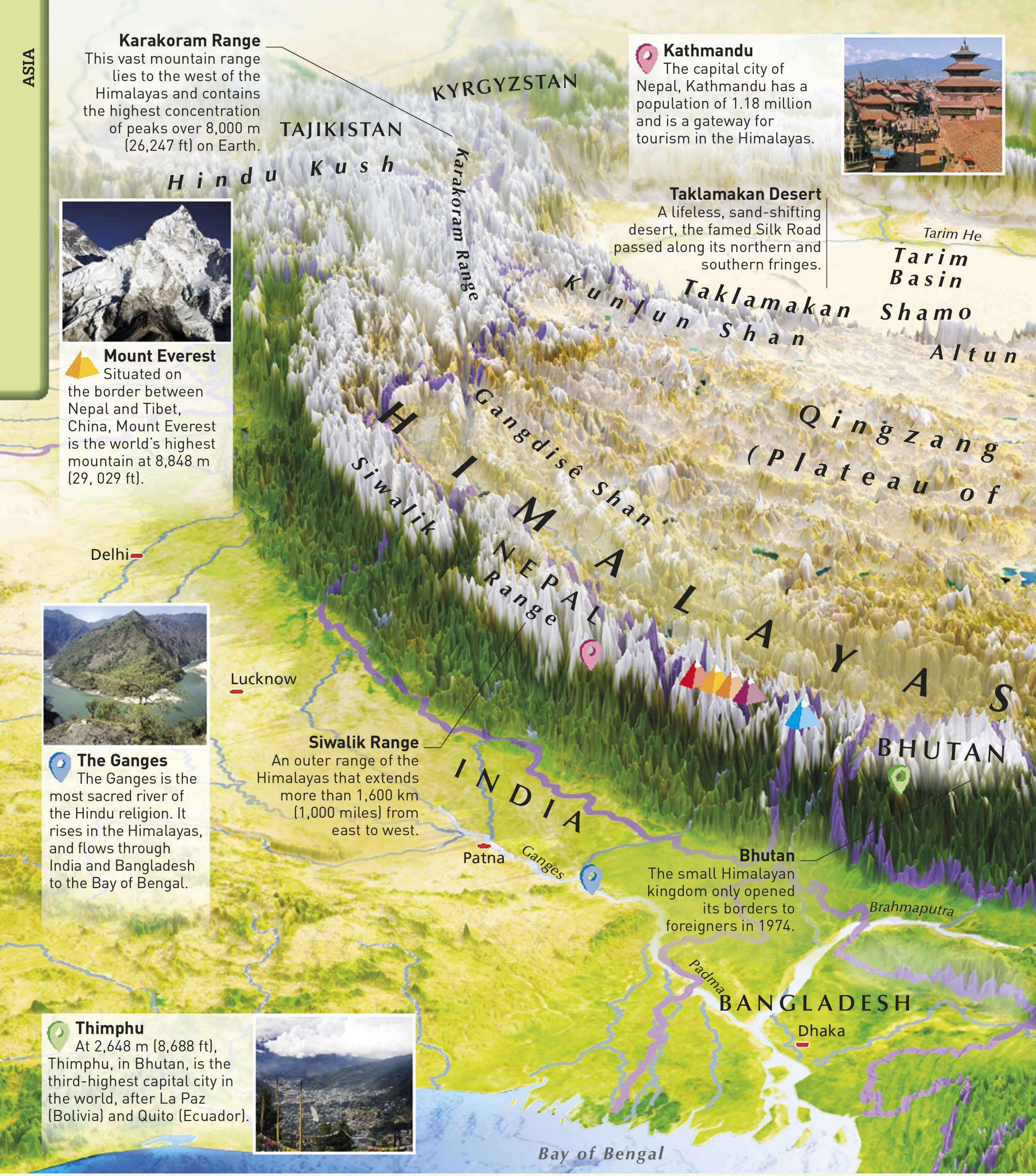
Java
The Indonesian island is the world's most populous island – 139.4 million people live there.

Shanghai

With a population of 24.3 million, Shanghai, China, located on the country's east coast, is the most populous city in the world.

Shanghai's Pudong district is on the banks of the Huangpu River.

EITHER CHINA (31.35 PER CENT) OR INDIA (29.72 PER CENT).


KYRGYZSTAN
TAJIKISTAN
Hindu Kush
Karakoram Range
Kunlun Shan
Taklamakan Shamo
Tarim He
Tarim Basin
Altun
Qingzang (Plateau of
Gangdisê Shan
HIMALAYAS
Siwalik Range
NEPAL
BHUTAN
INDIA
Delhi
Lucknow
Patna
Ganges
Brahmaputra
Padma
BANGLADESH
Dhaka
Bay of Bengal

Karakoram Range
This vast mountain range lies to the west of the Himalayas and contains the highest concentration of peaks over 8,000 m (26,247 ft) on Earth.

Kathmandu
The capital city of Nepal, Kathmandu has a population of 1.18 million and is a gateway for tourism in the Himalayas.

Taklamakan Desert
A lifeless, sand-shifting desert, the famed Silk Road passed along its northern and southern fringes.

Mount Everest
Situated on the border between Nepal and Tibet, China, Mount Everest is the world's highest mountain at 8,848 m (29, 029 ft).

Siwalik Range
An outer range of the Himalayas that extends more than 1,600 km (1,000 miles) from east to west.

The Ganges
The Ganges is the most sacred river of the Hindu religion. It rises in the Himalayas, and flows through India and Bangladesh to the Bay of Bengal.

Bhutan
The small Himalayan kingdom only opened its borders to foreigners in 1974.

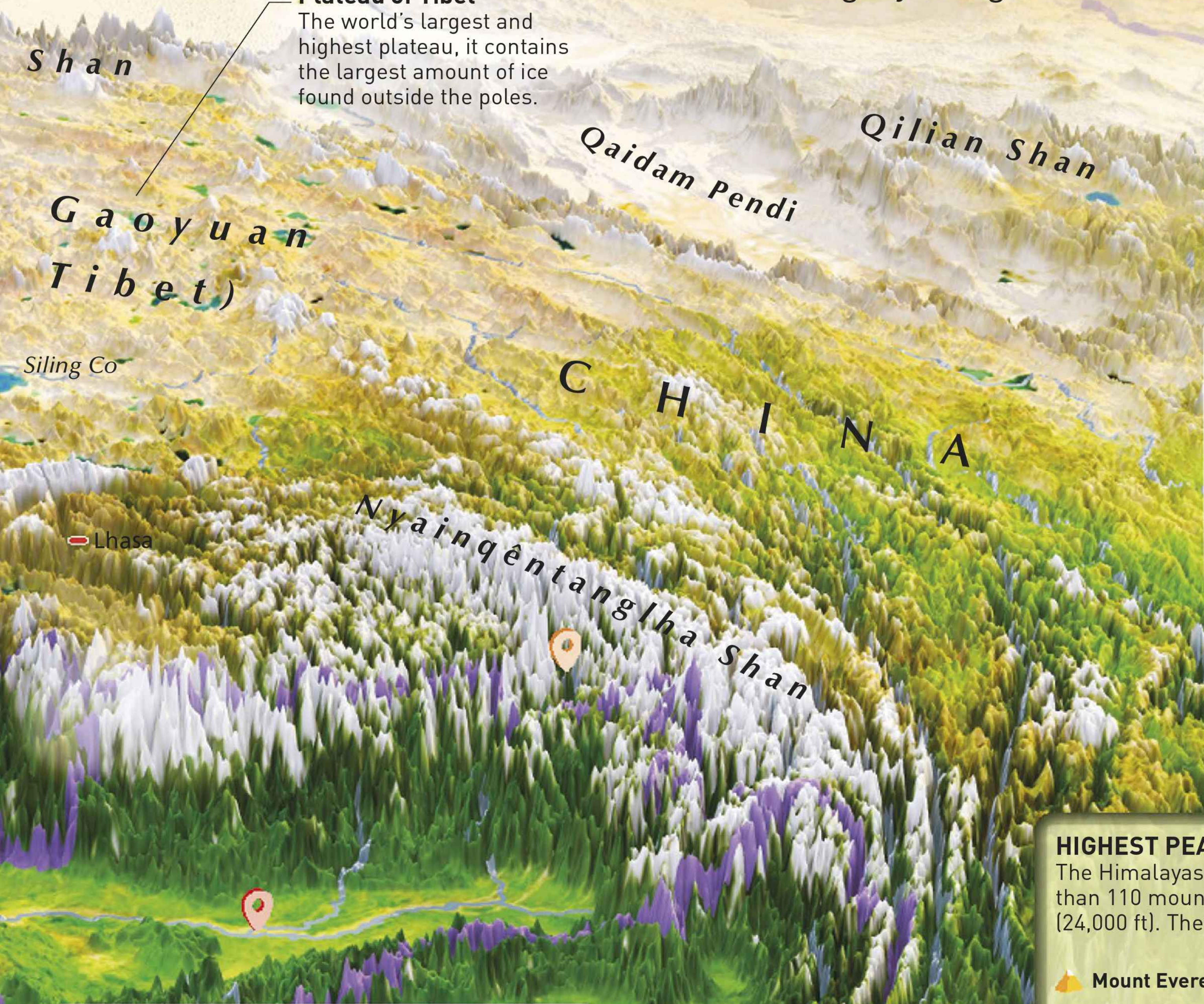
Thimphu
At 2,648 m (8,688 ft), Thimphu, in Bhutan, is the third-highest capital city in the world, after La Paz (Bolivia) and Quito (Ecuador).

THE HIMALAYAS ARE STILL RISING AT A RATE OF 4 MM (0.25 IN) PER

The Himalayas

The Himalayas is the world's highest mountain range. It runs in an arc 2,400 km (1,500 miles) long, spread across five countries: Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan, and China. It is also the source of some of the region's major rivers, including the mighty Ganges and Brahmaputra rivers.

Plateau of Tibet
The world's largest and highest plateau, it contains the largest amount of ice found outside the poles.

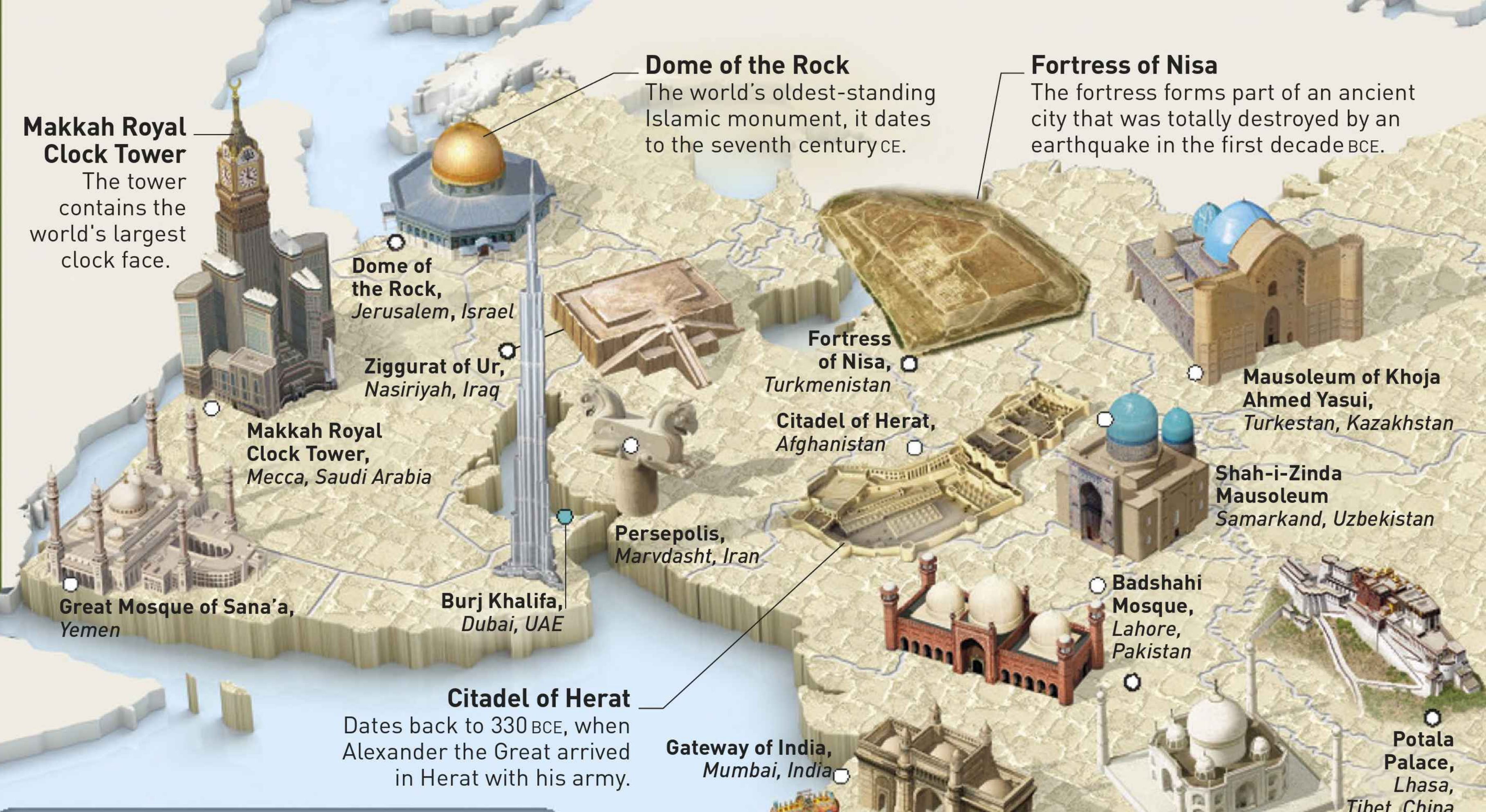


Tsangpo Gorge
With an average depth of 5,000 m (16,400 ft), Tsangpo Gorge, in Tibet, China, is the deepest canyon in the world.

Brahmaputra River
One of Asia's major rivers, it cuts through China, Bhutan, India, and Bangladesh before flowing into the Bay of Bengal.

HIGHEST PEAKS
The Himalayas is home to more than 110 mountains over 7,300 m (24,000 ft). The top five are:

▲ **Mount Everest** 8,848 m (29,029 ft)
▲ **Kangchenjunga** 8,586 m (28,169 ft)
▲ **Lhotse** 8,516 m (27,940 ft)
▲ **Makalu** 8,462 m (27,765 ft)
▲ **Cho Oyu** 8,201 m (26,905 ft)


Dome of the Rock, *Jerusalem, Israel*
Ziggurat of Ur, *Nasiriyah, Iraq*
Makkah Royal Clock Tower, *Mecca, Saudi Arabia*
Great Mosque of Sana'a, *Yemen*
Burj Khalifa, *Dubai, UAE*
Persepolis, *Marvdasht, Iran*
Fortress of Nisa, *Turkmenistan*
Citadel of Herat, *Afghanistan*
Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasui, *Turkestan, Kazakhstan*
Shah-i-Zinda Mausoleum *Samarkand, Uzbekistan*
Badshahi Mosque, *Lahore, Pakistan*
Potala Palace, *Lhasa, Tibet, China*
Gateway of India, *Mumbai, India*
Taj Mahal, *Agra, India*
Meenakshi Amman Temple, *Madurai, India*
Bagan, *Myanmar*

Makkah Royal Clock Tower The tower contains the world's largest clock face.

Dome of the Rock The world's oldest-standing Islamic monument, it dates to the seventh century CE.

Fortress of Nisa The fortress forms part of an ancient city that was totally destroyed by an earthquake in the first decade BCE.

Citadel of Herat Dates back to 330 BCE, when Alexander the Great arrived in Herat with his army.

Meenakshi Amman Temple This Hindu temple lies at the heart of the ancient Indian city of Madurai.

Taj Mahal The white-marble mausoleum (a building that covers a burial chamber) attracts 8 million visitors a year.

Petronas Towers At 452 m (1,483 ft), they are the world's tallest twin towers.

● Burj Khalifa

Standing at 828 m (2,715 ft), the Burj Khalifa in Dubai, UAE, is the tallest manmade structure in the world. Completed in 2009, it has 163 floors (including the world's highest observation deck on the 148th floor), 57 elevators, and eight escalators.

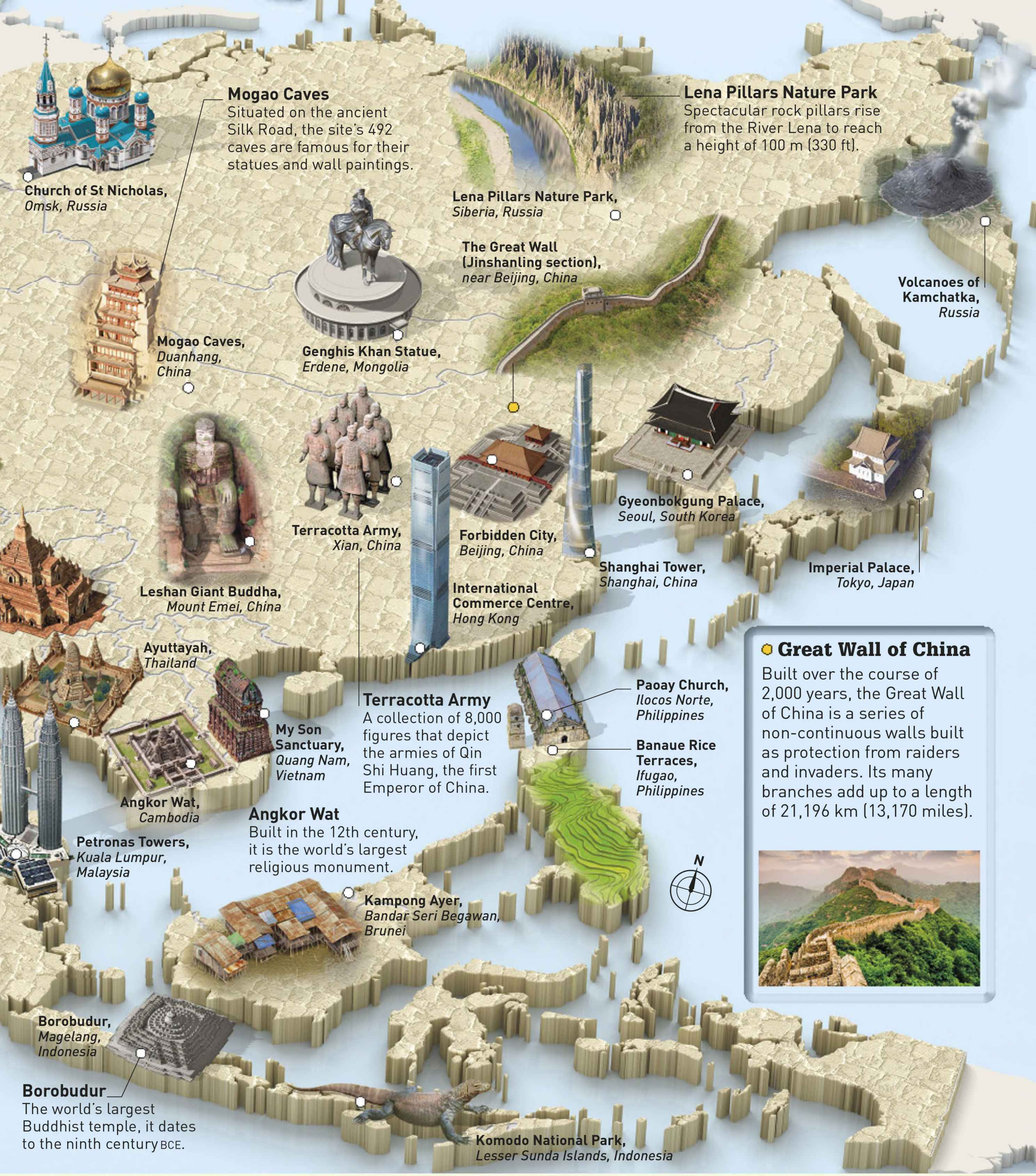
Famous landmarks

Asia is a continent of huge contrasts. It was the birthplace of some of the earliest human civilizations, has been a hub for many of the world's great religions, such as Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism, and, today, is the site of some of the world's most amazing modern architecture.

KEY

○ Landmark location

CHINA IS THE MOST VISITED COUNTRY IN ASIA.


Church of St Nicholas, *Omsk, Russia*
Lena Pillars Nature Park, *Siberia, Russia*
The Great Wall (Jinshanling section), *near Beijing, China*
Volcanoes of Kamchatka, *Russia*
Mogao Caves, *Duanhang, China*
Genghis Khan Statue, *Erdene, Mongolia*
Terracotta Army, *Xian, China*
Forbidden City, *Beijing, China*
Gyeonbokgung Palace, *Seoul, South Korea*
Shanghai Tower, *Shanghai, China*
Imperial Palace, *Tokyo, Japan*
Leshan Giant Buddha, *Mount Emei, China*
International Commerce Centre, *Hong Kong*
Ayuttayah, *Thailand*
My Son Sanctuary, *Quang Nam, Vietnam*
Paoay Church, *Ilocos Norte, Philippines*
Banaue Rice Terraces, *Ifugao, Philippines*
Angkor Wat, *Cambodia*
Petronas Towers, *Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia*
Kampong Ayer, *Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei*
N
Borobudur, *Magelang, Indonesia*
Komodo National Park, *Lesser Sunda Islands, Indonesia*

Mogao Caves
Situated on the ancient Silk Road, the site's 492 caves are famous for their statues and wall paintings.

Lena Pillars Nature Park
Spectacular rock pillars rise from the River Lena to reach a height of 100 m (330 ft).

Terracotta Army
A collection of 8,000 figures that depict the armies of Qin Shi Huang, the first Emperor of China.

Angkor Wat
Built in the 12th century, it is the world's largest religious monument.

Borobudur
The world's largest Buddhist temple, it dates to the ninth century BCE.

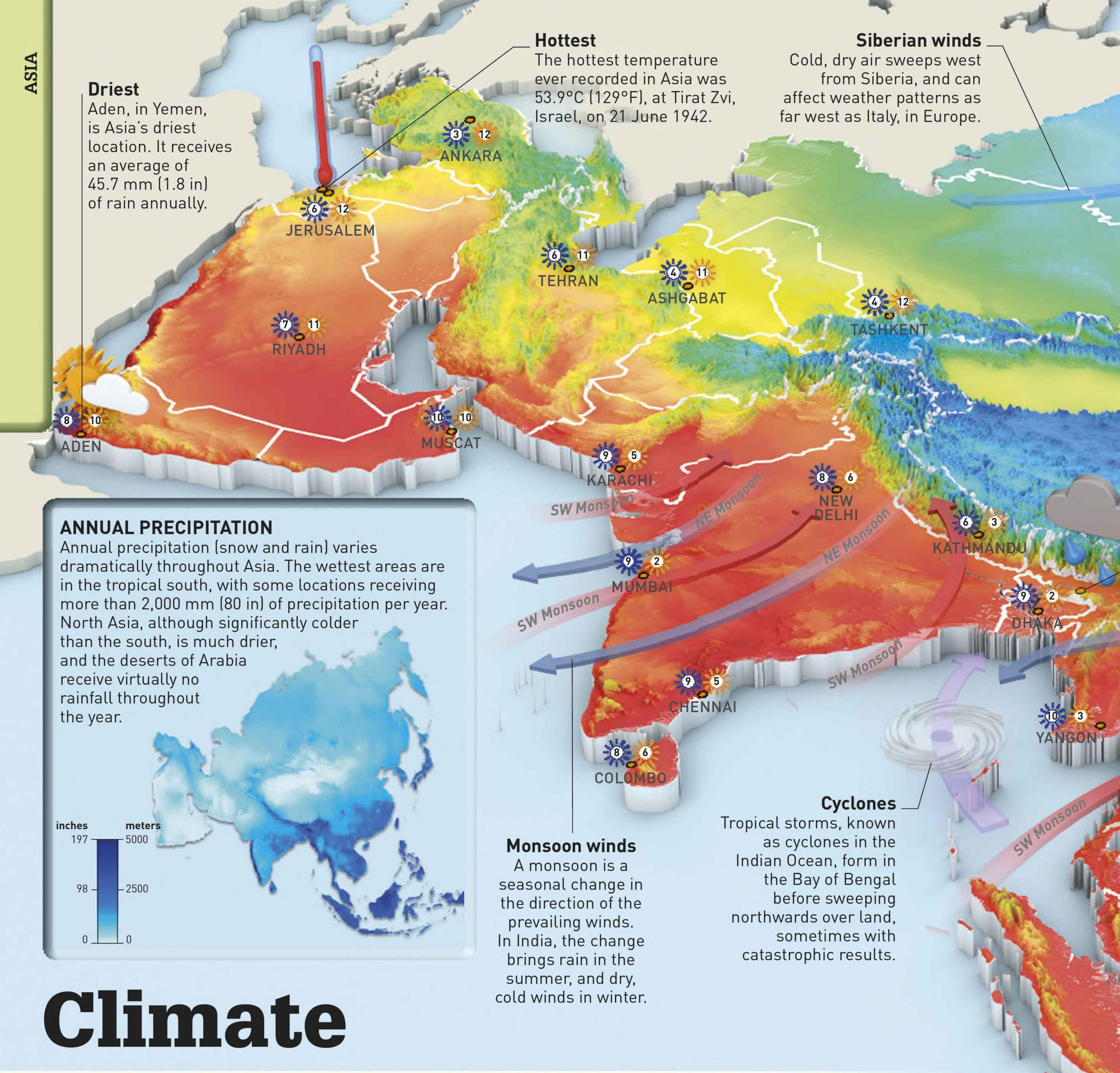
Great Wall of China

Built over the course of 2,000 years, the Great Wall of China is a series of non-continuous walls built as protection from raiders and invaders. Its many branches add up to a length of 21,196 km (13,170 miles).

IN 2015, 56.9 MILLION TOURISTS FLOCKED TO THE COUNTRY.

Climate

Because of its enormous size, the climate in Asia varies dramatically, from the polar cold of the north, to the dry, desert environments of the southwest and centre, and the hot, humid conditions of the tropical south. The continent is home to some of the coldest, hottest, driest, and wettest places on Earth.


3 12
ANKARA
6 12
JERUSALEM
6 11
TEHRAN
4 11
ASHGABAT
4 12
TASHKENT
7 11
RIYADH
8 10
ADEN
10 10
MUSCAT
9 5
KARACHI
8 6
NEW DELHI
6 3
KATHMANDU
9 2
MUMBAI
9 2
DHAKA
9 5
CHENNAI
10 3
YANGON
8 6
COLOMBO
SW Monsoon
NE Monsoon
NE Monsoon
SW Monsoon
SW Monsoon
SW Monsoon
inches
meters
197
5000
98
2500
0
0

Driest
Aden, in Yemen, is Asia's driest location. It receives an average of 45.7 mm (1.8 in) of rain annually.

Hottest
The hottest temperature ever recorded in Asia was 53.9°C (129°F), at Tirat Zvi, Israel, on 21 June 1942.

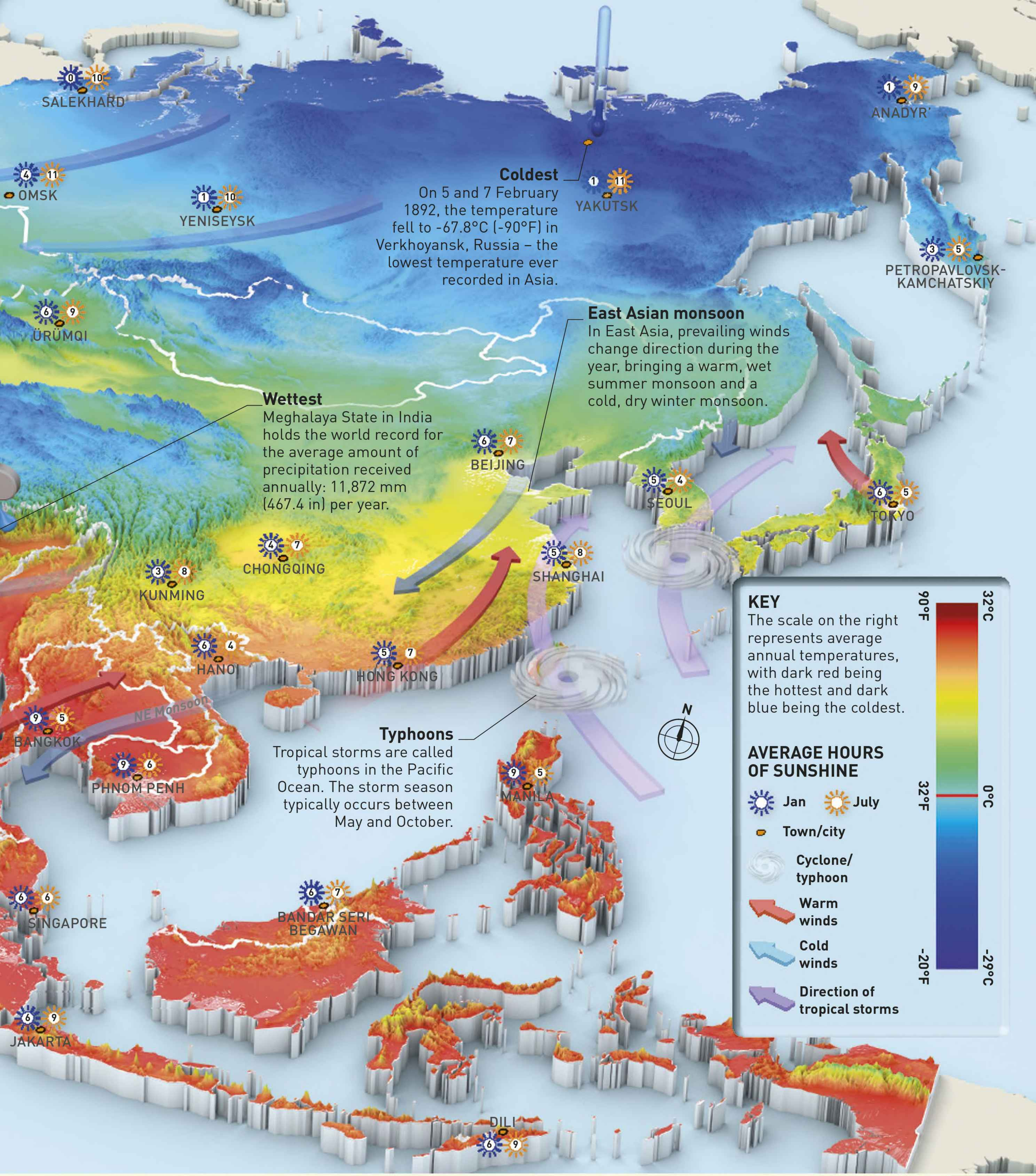
Siberian winds
Cold, dry air sweeps west from Siberia, and can affect weather patterns as far west as Italy, in Europe.

ANNUAL PRECIPITATION
Annual precipitation (snow and rain) varies dramatically throughout Asia. The wettest areas are in the tropical south, with some locations receiving more than 2,000 mm (80 in) of precipitation per year. North Asia, although significantly colder than the south, is much drier, and the deserts of Arabia receive virtually no rainfall throughout the year.

Monsoon winds
A monsoon is a seasonal change in the direction of the prevailing winds. In India, the change brings rain in the summer, and dry, cold winds in winter.

Cyclones
Tropical storms, known as cyclones in the Indian Ocean, form in the Bay of Bengal before sweeping northwards over land, sometimes with catastrophic results.

LIFE IN ASIA IS CRITICALLY DEPENDENT ON MONSOON RAINS. A WEAK


SALEKHARD 0 10
OMSK 4 11
YENISEYSK 1 10
YAKUTSK 1 11
ANADYR' 1 9
PETROPAVLOVSK-KAMCHATSKIY 3 5
ÜRÜMQI 6 9
BEIJING 6 7
SEOUL 5 4
TOKYO 6 5
CHONGQING 4 7
KUNMING 3 8
SHANGHAI 5 8
HANOI 6 4
HONG KONG 5 7
NE Monsoon
BANGKOK 9 5
PHNOM PENH 9 6
MANILA 9 5
N
SINGAPORE 6 6
BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN 6 7
JAKARTA 6 9
DILI 6 9
32°C
90°F
0°C
32°F
-29°C
-20°F

Coldest
On 5 and 7 February 1892, the temperature fell to -67.8°C (-90°F) in Verkhoyansk, Russia – the lowest temperature ever recorded in Asia.

East Asian monsoon
In East Asia, prevailing winds change direction during the year, bringing a warm, wet summer monsoon and a cold, dry winter monsoon.

Wettest
Meghalaya State in India holds the world record for the average amount of precipitation received annually: 11,872 mm (467.4 in) per year.

Typhoons
Tropical storms are called typhoons in the Pacific Ocean. The storm season typically occurs between May and October.

KEY
The scale on the right represents average annual temperatures, with dark red being the hottest and dark blue being the coldest.

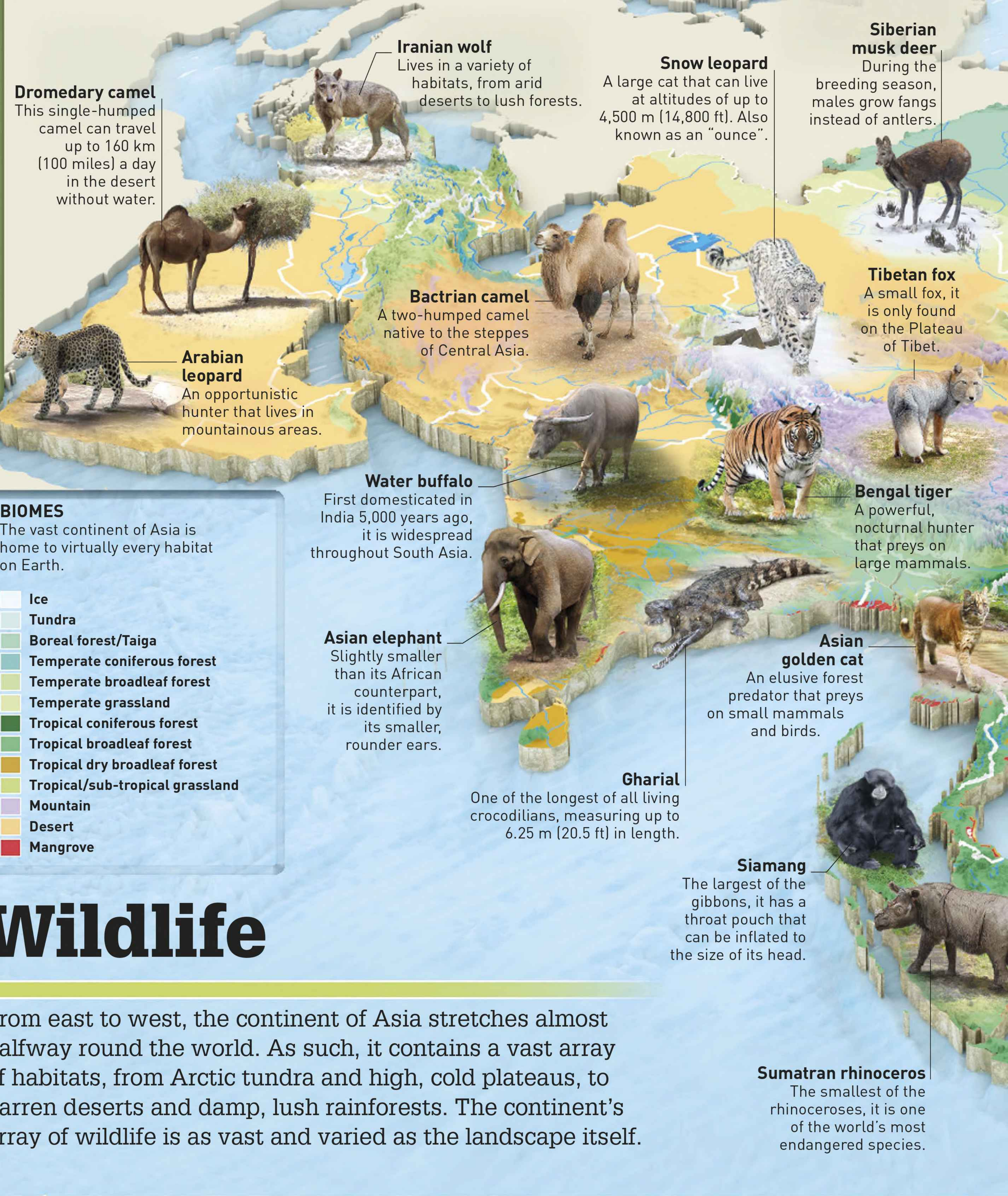
AVERAGE HOURS OF SUNSHINE

- Jan
- July
- Town/city
- Cyclone/typhoon
- Warm winds
- Cold winds
- Direction of tropical storms

MONSOON RAINY SEASON MAY CAUSE DROUGHT AND CROP FAILURES.

Wildlife

From east to west, the continent of Asia stretches almost halfway round the world. As such, it contains a vast array of habitats, from Arctic tundra and high, cold plateaus, to barren deserts and damp, lush rainforests. The continent's array of wildlife is as vast and varied as the landscape itself.



Dromedary camel
This single-humped camel can travel up to 160 km (100 miles) a day in the desert without water.

Iranian wolf
Lives in a variety of habitats, from arid deserts to lush forests.

Snow leopard
A large cat that can live at altitudes of up to 4,500 m (14,800 ft). Also known as an "ounce".

Siberian musk deer
During the breeding season, males grow fangs instead of antlers.

Tibetan fox
A small fox, it is only found on the Plateau of Tibet.

Bactrian camel
A two-humped camel native to the steppes of Central Asia.

Arabian leopard
An opportunistic hunter that lives in mountainous areas.

Water buffalo
First domesticated in India 5,000 years ago, it is widespread throughout South Asia.

Bengal tiger
A powerful, nocturnal hunter that preys on large mammals.

Asian elephant
Slightly smaller than its African counterpart, it is identified by its smaller, rounder ears.

Asian golden cat
An elusive forest predator that preys on small mammals and birds.

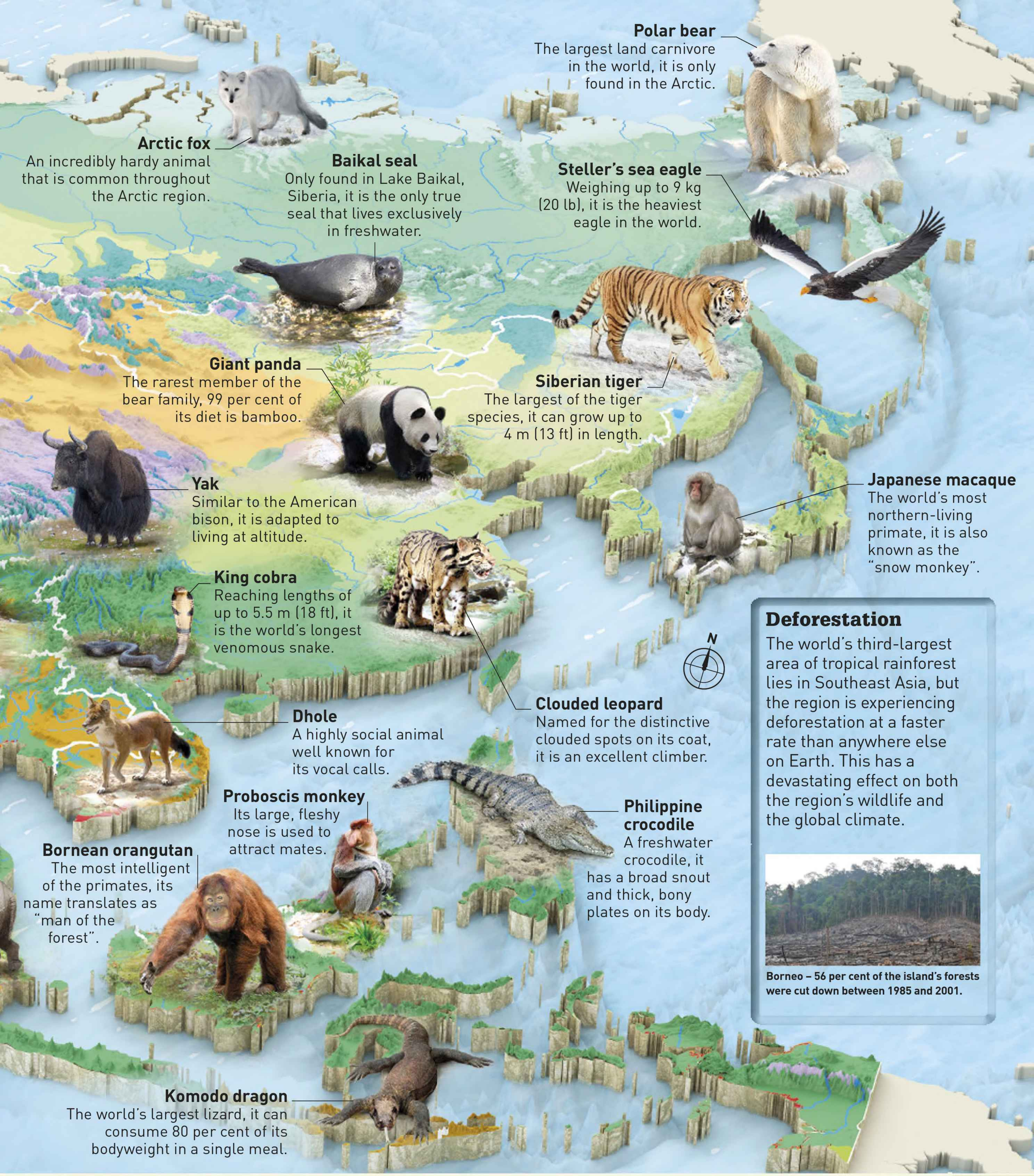
Gharial
One of the longest of all living crocodilians, measuring up to 6.25 m (20.5 ft) in length.

Siamang
The largest of the gibbons, it has a throat pouch that can be inflated to the size of its head.

Sumatran rhinoceros
The smallest of the rhinoceroses, it is one of the world's most endangered species.

BIOMES
The vast continent of Asia is home to virtually every habitat on Earth.

- ⬜ **Ice**
- ⬜ **Tundra**
- 🟩 **Boreal forest/Taiga**
- 🟦 **Temperate coniferous forest**
- 🟩 **Temperate broadleaf forest**
- 🟨 **Temperate grassland**
- 🟩 **Tropical coniferous forest**
- 🟩 **Tropical broadleaf forest**
- 🟧 **Tropical dry broadleaf forest**
- 🟨 **Tropical/sub-tropical grassland**
- 🟪 **Mountain**
- 🟧 **Desert**
- 🟥 **Mangrove**



Polar bear
The largest land carnivore in the world, it is only found in the Arctic.

Arctic fox
An incredibly hardy animal that is common throughout the Arctic region.

Baikal seal
Only found in Lake Baikal, Siberia, it is the only true seal that lives exclusively in freshwater.

Steller's sea eagle
Weighing up to 9 kg (20 lb), it is the heaviest eagle in the world.

Giant panda
The rarest member of the bear family, 99 per cent of its diet is bamboo.

Siberian tiger
The largest of the tiger species, it can grow up to 4 m (13 ft) in length.

Yak
Similar to the American bison, it is adapted to living at altitude.

Japanese macaque
The world's most northern-living primate, it is also known as the "snow monkey".

King cobra
Reaching lengths of up to 5.5 m (18 ft), it is the world's longest venomous snake.

Clouded leopard
Named for the distinctive clouded spots on its coat, it is an excellent climber.

Dhole
A highly social animal well known for its vocal calls.

Proboscis monkey
Its large, fleshy nose is used to attract mates.

Philippine crocodile
A freshwater crocodile, it has a broad snout and thick, bony plates on its body.

Bornean orangutan
The most intelligent of the primates, its name translates as "man of the forest".

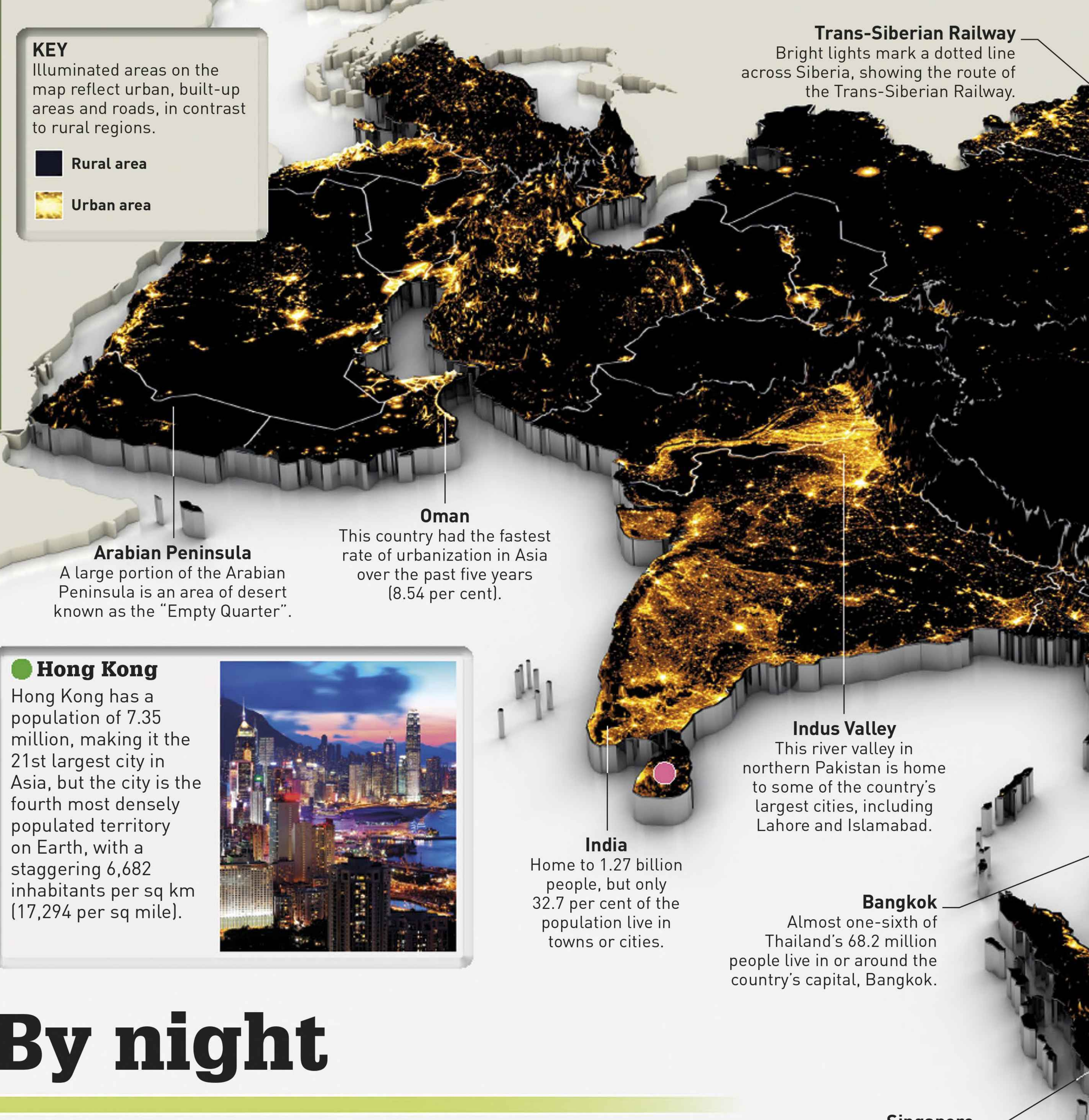
Komodo dragon
The world's largest lizard, it can consume 80 per cent of its bodyweight in a single meal.

Deforestation

The world's third-largest area of tropical rainforest lies in Southeast Asia, but the region is experiencing deforestation at a faster rate than anywhere else on Earth. This has a devastating effect on both the region's wildlife and the global climate.

Borneo – 56 per cent of the island's forests were cut down between 1985 and 2001.

BUFFALO THAN ON ANY OTHER DOMESTICATED ANIMAL ON EARTH.



KEY
Illuminated areas on the map reflect urban, built-up areas and roads, in contrast to rural regions.

■ **Rural area**

▨ **Urban area**

Trans-Siberian Railway
Bright lights mark a dotted line across Siberia, showing the route of the Trans-Siberian Railway.

Arabian Peninsula
A large portion of the Arabian Peninsula is an area of desert known as the "Empty Quarter".

Oman
This country had the fastest rate of urbanization in Asia over the past five years (8.54 per cent).

Indus Valley
This river valley in northern Pakistan is home to some of the country's largest cities, including Lahore and Islamabad.

India
Home to 1.27 billion people, but only 32.7 per cent of the population live in towns or cities.

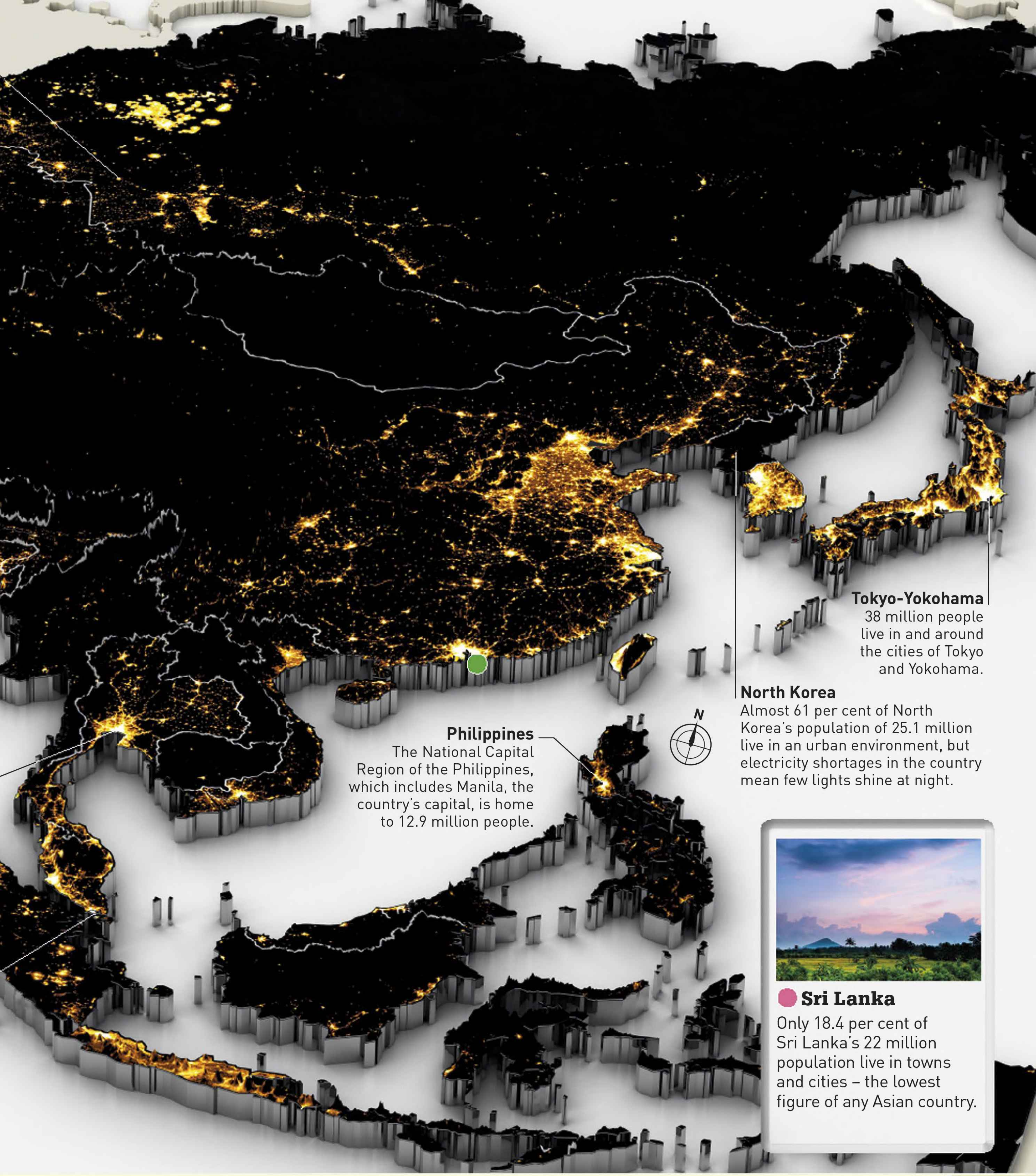
Bangkok
Almost one-sixth of Thailand's 68.2 million people live in or around the country's capital, Bangkok.

● **Hong Kong**
Hong Kong has a population of 7.35 million, making it the 21st largest city in Asia, but the city is the fourth most densely populated territory on Earth, with a staggering 6,682 inhabitants per sq km (17,294 per sq mile).

By night

This satellite image of Asia at night shows how the continent's huge population is concentrated in small pockets of land. India, northern China, the southern Korean peninsula, and Japan are densely populated, whereas Siberia and Central Asia are virtually empty.

Singapore
One of three territories in Asia – along with Hong Kong and Macau – in which the entire population live in an urban environment.



Tokyo-Yokohama
38 million people live in and around the cities of Tokyo and Yokohama.

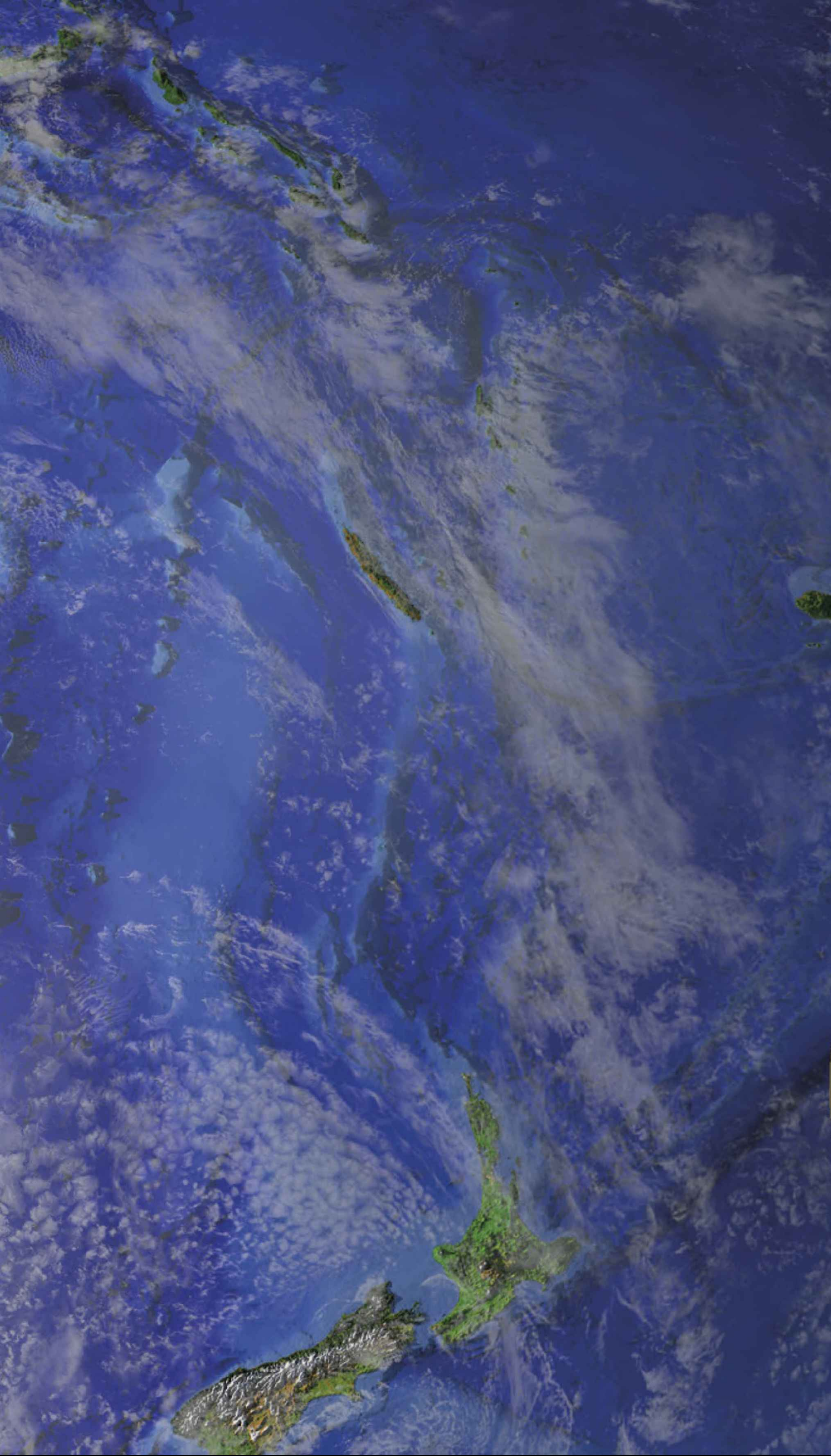
North Korea
Almost 61 per cent of North Korea's population of 25.1 million live in an urban environment, but electricity shortages in the country mean few lights shine at night.

Philippines
The National Capital Region of the Philippines, which includes Manila, the country's capital, is home to 12.9 million people.

Sri Lanka

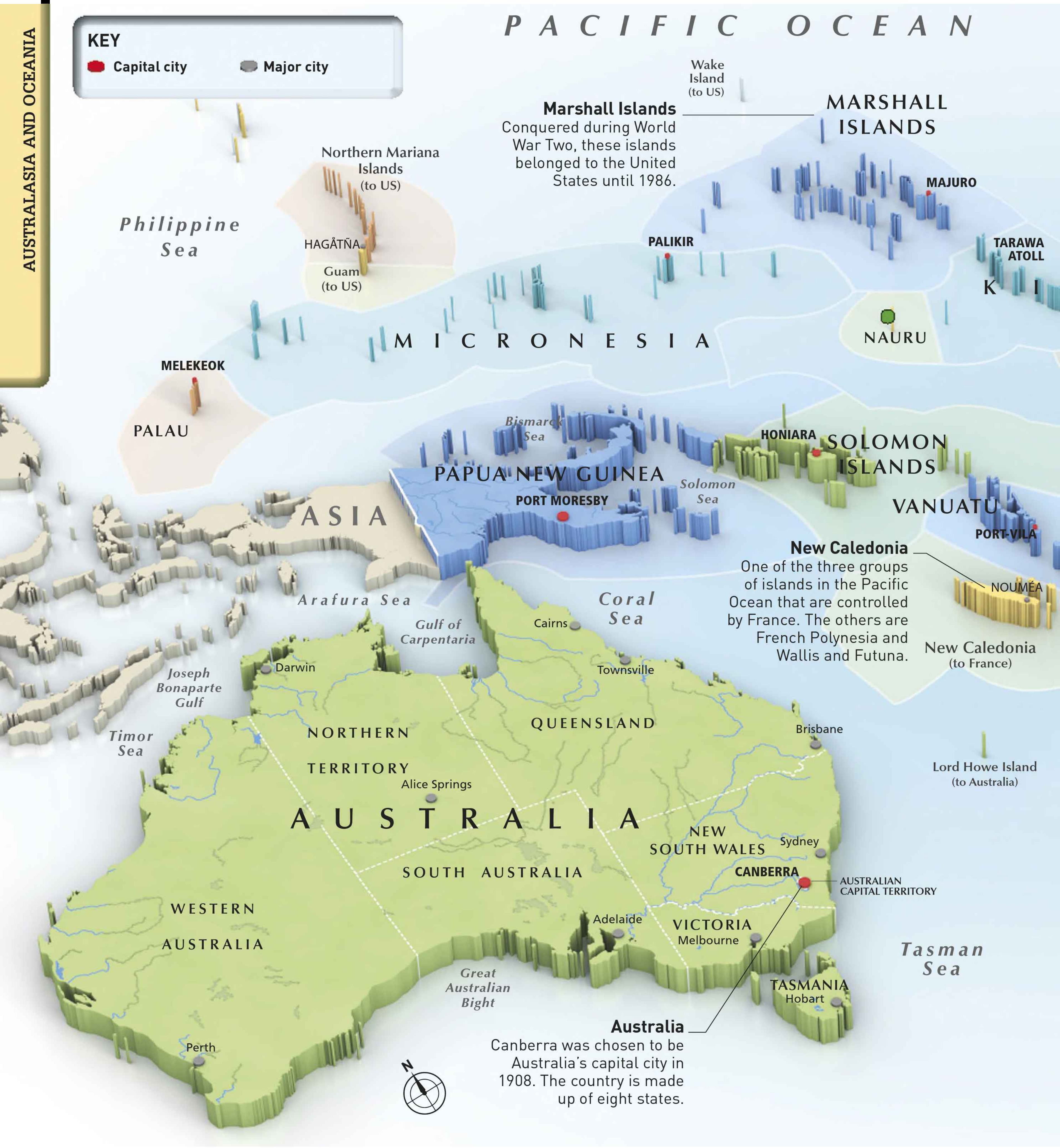
Only 18.4 per cent of Sri Lanka's 22 million population live in towns and cities – the lowest figure of any Asian country.

POPULATED TERRITORIES: MACAU, HONG KONG, AND BAHRAIN.



AUSTRALASIA & OCEANIA

Australasia & Oceania from space
Vast deserts dominate the interior of Australia, contrasting with the fertile southeast. To the north, dense forest covers much of New Guinea, while in the far south, the snowy peaks of New Zealand's mountains stand out clearly.


KEY
Capital city
Major city
PACIFIC OCEAN
Wake Island (to US)
MARSHALL ISLANDS
MAJURO
Northern Mariana Islands (to US)
Philippine Sea
HAGÅTÑA
Guam (to US)
PALIKIR
TARAWA ATOLL
K I
NAURU
MICRONESIA
MELEKEOK
PALAU
Bismarck Sea
HONIARA
SOLOMON ISLANDS
PAPUA NEW GUINEA
PORT MORESBY
Solomon Sea
VANUATU
PORT-VILA
ASIA
NOUMÉA
Arafura Sea
Coral Sea
Gulf of Carpentaria
Cairns
Townsville
Darwin
Joseph Bonaparte Gulf
New Caledonia (to France)
QUEENSLAND
Brisbane
Timor Sea
NORTHERN TERRITORY
Alice Springs
Lord Howe Island (to Australia)
AUSTRALIA
NEW SOUTH WALES
Sydney
SOUTH AUSTRALIA
CANBERRA
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Adelaide
VICTORIA
Melbourne
Tasman Sea
Great Australian Bight
TASMANIA
Hobart
Perth
N

Marshall Islands
Conquered during World War Two, these islands belonged to the United States until 1986.

New Caledonia
One of the three groups of islands in the Pacific Ocean that are controlled by France. The others are French Polynesia and Wallis and Futuna.

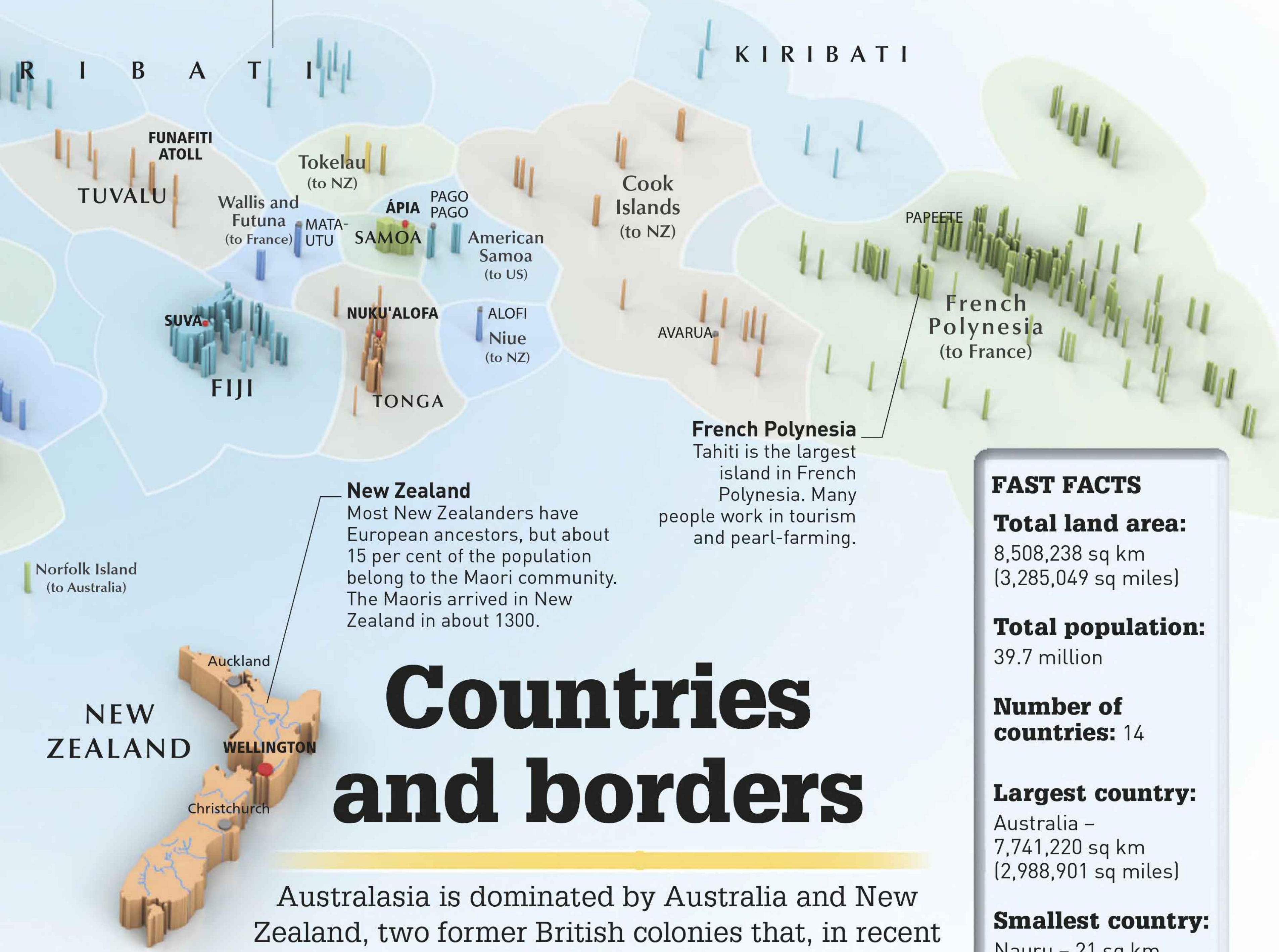
Australia
Canberra was chosen to be Australia's capital city in 1908. The country is made up of eight states.

THE BRITISH MONARCH, QUEEN ELIZABETH II, IS ALSO

Countries and borders

Australasia is dominated by Australia and New Zealand, two former British colonies that, in recent years, have built new relations with other Pacific nations, such as Japan. Oceania includes the many islands of the Pacific Ocean, whose communities rely increasingly on tourism.

Nauru
The Republic of Nauru is the world's smallest island nation, with a total area of 21 sq km (8 sq miles) and a population of just 9,591. The oval-shaped island is surrounded by sandy beaches and a coral reef.



KIRIBATI
KIRIBATI
FUNAFITI ATOLL
TUVALU
Tokelau (to NZ)
Wallis and Futuna (to France)
MATA-UTU
ÁPIA
SAMOA
PAGO PAGO
American Samoa (to US)
Cook Islands (to NZ)
PAPEETE
French Polynesia (to France)
SUVA
FIJI
NUKU'ALOFA
TONGA
ALOFI
Niue (to NZ)
AVARUA
Norfolk Island (to Australia)
NEW ZEALAND
Auckland
WELLINGTON
Christchurch

Kiribati
This group of 33 tiny islands is spread over a vast area of the Pacific Ocean. Kiribati was a British colony from 1915 until it gained its independence in 1979.

French Polynesia
Tahiti is the largest island in French Polynesia. Many people work in tourism and pearl-farming.

New Zealand
Most New Zealanders have European ancestors, but about 15 per cent of the population belong to the Maori community. The Maoris arrived in New Zealand in about 1300.

FAST FACTS

Total land area:
8,508,238 sq km
(3,285,049 sq miles)

Total population:
39.7 million

Number of countries: 14

Largest country:
Australia –
7,741,220 sq km
(2,988,901 sq miles)

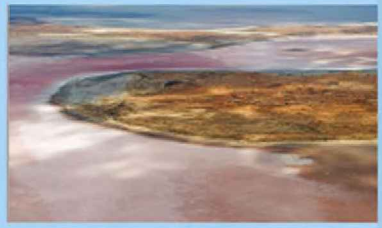
Smallest country:
Nauru – 21 sq km
(8.1 sq miles)

Largest country population:
Australia – 22.9 million

HEAD OF STATE OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND.

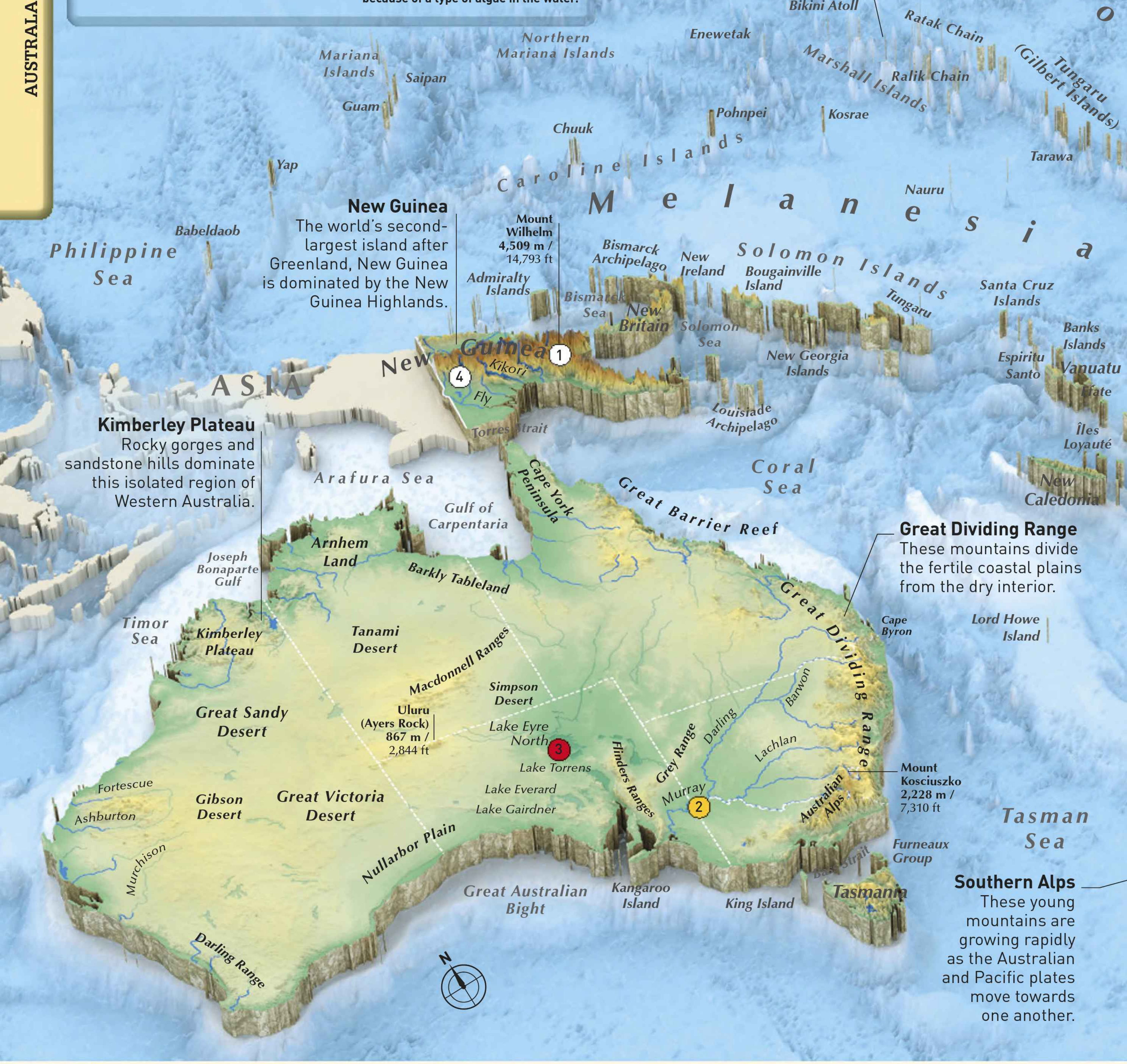
③ Lake Eyre

With an area of 9,583 sq km (3,700 sq miles), Lake Eyre is the largest lake in Australasia and Oceania. During the dry season, much of the lake evaporates, leaving behind a thick salt crust.



Lake Eyre sometimes turns pink because of a type of algae in the water.

Marshall Islands
A group of 34 scattered atolls (low-lying islands made of coral reefs) in the Pacific Ocean. The average height of each island is only 2 m (6.6 ft) above sea level.


Micro
Bikini Atoll
Ratak Chain
Tungaru (Gilbert Islands)
Enewetak
Marshall Islands
Ralik Chain
Northern Mariana Islands
Mariana Islands
Saipan
Guam
Pohnpei
Kosrae
Chuuk
Tarawa
Yap
Caroline Islands
Melanesia
Nauru
Babeldaob
Philippine Sea
Mount Wilhelm 4,509 m / 14,793 ft
Bismarck Archipelago
New Ireland
Solomon Islands
Bougainville Island
Santa Cruz Islands
Admiralty Islands
Bismarck Sea
New Britain
Solomon Sea
Tungaru
Banks Islands
New Guinea
1
Espiritu Santo
Vanuatu
Efate
New Georgia Islands
ASIA
Kikori
4
Fly
Louisiade Archipelago
Torres Strait
Îles Loyauté
Coral Sea
Arafura Sea
Cape York Peninsula
Great Barrier Reef
New Caledonia
Gulf of Carpentaria
Arnhem Land
Joseph Bonaparte Gulf
Barkly Tableland
Great Dividing Range
Cape Byron
Lord Howe Island
Timor Sea
Kimberley Plateau
Tanami Desert
Macdonnell Ranges
Simpson Desert
Barwon
Great Sandy Desert
Uluru (Ayers Rock) 867 m / 2,844 ft
Lake Eyre North
3
Darling
Grey Range
Lachlan
Lake Torrens
Flinders Ranges
Mount Kosciuszko 2,228 m / 7,310 ft
Fortescue
Gibson Desert
Great Victoria Desert
Lake Everard
Murray
2
Lake Gairdner
Australian Alps
Ashburton
Tasman Sea
Furneaux Group
Nullarbor Plain
Bass Strait
Murchison
Great Australian Bight
Kangaroo Island
King Island
Tasmania
Darling Range
N

New Guinea
The world's second-largest island after Greenland, New Guinea is dominated by the New Guinea Highlands.

Kimberley Plateau
Rocky gorges and sandstone hills dominate this isolated region of Western Australia.

Great Dividing Range
These mountains divide the fertile coastal plains from the dry interior.

Southern Alps
These young mountains are growing rapidly as the Australian and Pacific plates move towards one another.

SOME OF THE OLDEST ROCKS ON EARTH - DATING BACK

FAST FACTS

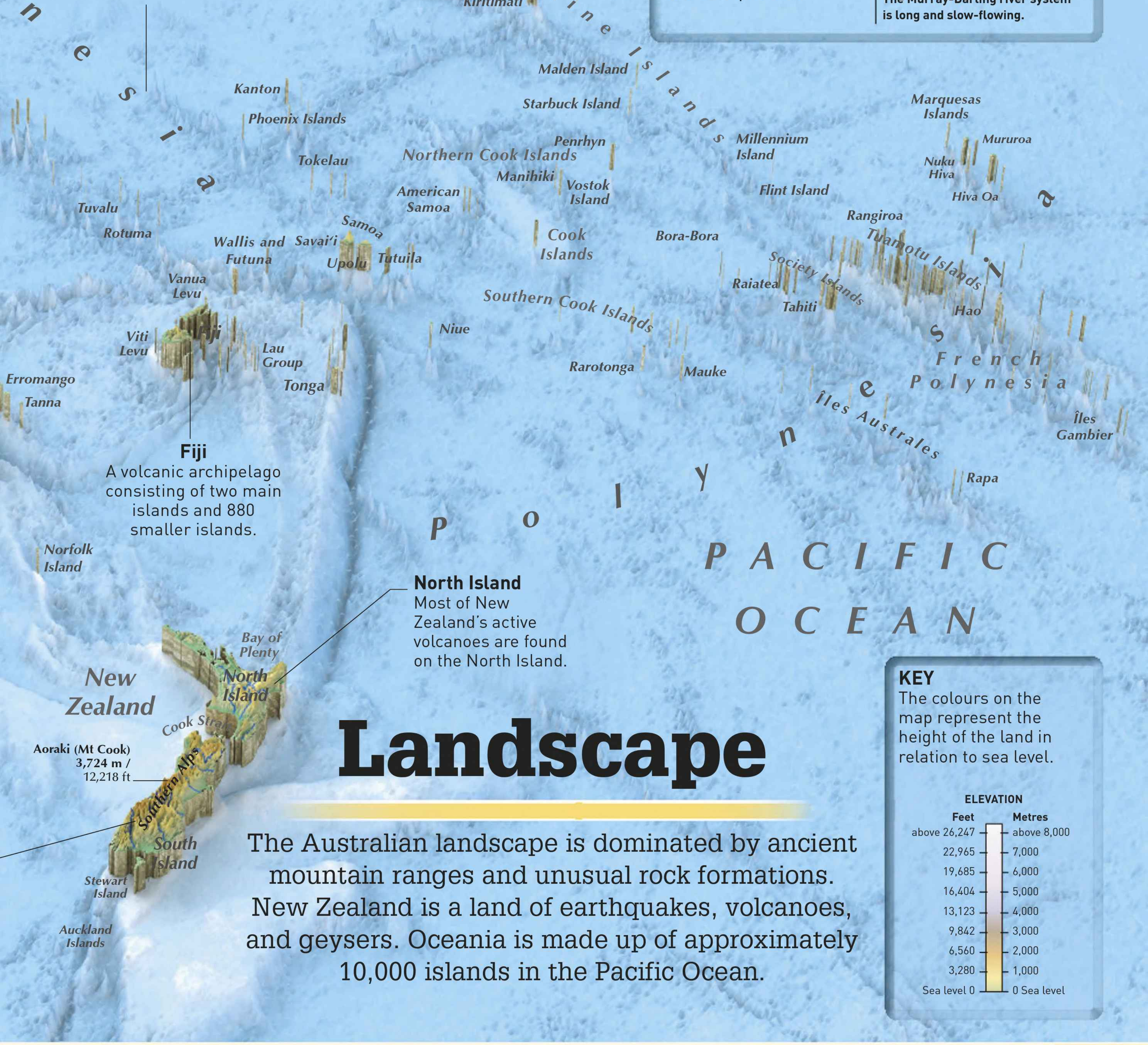
① **Highest point:** Mount Wilhelm, Papua New Guinea – 4,509 m (14,793 ft)

② **Longest river:** Murray-Darling, Australia – 3,750 km (2,330 miles)

③ **Largest lake:** Lake Eyre, Australia – 9,583 sq km (3,700 sq miles)

④ **Largest island:** New Guinea – 808,000 sq km (312,000 sq miles)

The Murray-Darling river system is long and slow-flowing.


Micronesia
Teraina
Tabuarean
Kiritimati
Line Islands
Malden Island
Starbuck Island
Kanton
Phoenix Islands
Tokelau
Northern Cook Islands
Penrhyn
Manihiki
Vostok Island
Millennium Island
Flint Island
Marquesas Islands
Nuku Hiva
Mururoa
Hiva Oa
Tuvalu
Rotuma
American Samoa
Samoa
Savai'i
Upolu
Tutuila
Wallis and Futuna
Cook Islands
Bora-Bora
Rangiroa
Tuamotu Islands
Society Islands
Raiatea
Tahiti
Hao
Vanua Levu
Fiji
Viti Levu
Lau Group
Tonga
Southern Cook Islands
Niue
Rarotonga
Mauke
French Polynesia
Erromango
Tanna
Îles Australes
Îles Gambier
Rapa
Polynesia
PACIFIC OCEAN
Norfolk Island
New Zealand
Bay of Plenty
North Island
Cook Strait
Southern Alps
South Island
Aoraki (Mt Cook) 3,724 m / 12,218 ft
Stewart Island
Auckland Islands

Micronesia
Micronesia is a state of more than 600 islands, many of which are atolls.

Fiji
A volcanic archipelago consisting of two main islands and 880 smaller islands.

North Island
Most of New Zealand's active volcanoes are found on the North Island.

Landscape

The Australian landscape is dominated by ancient mountain ranges and unusual rock formations. New Zealand is a land of earthquakes, volcanoes, and geysers. Oceania is made up of approximately 10,000 islands in the Pacific Ocean.

KEY
The colours on the map represent the height of the land in relation to sea level.

ELEVATION

Feet	Metres
above 26,247	above 8,000
22,965	7,000
19,685	6,000
16,404	5,000
13,123	4,000
9,842	3,000
6,560	2,000
3,280	1,000
Sea level 0	0 Sea level

4.4 BILLION YEARS - HAVE BEEN FOUND IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Fascinating facts

COUNTRY WITH THE MOST NEIGHBOURS

Papua New Guinea

1 – Indonesia

LONGEST TUNNELS

Railway tunnel

Kaimai Tunnel, North Island, New Zealand – 8.85 km (5.5 miles)

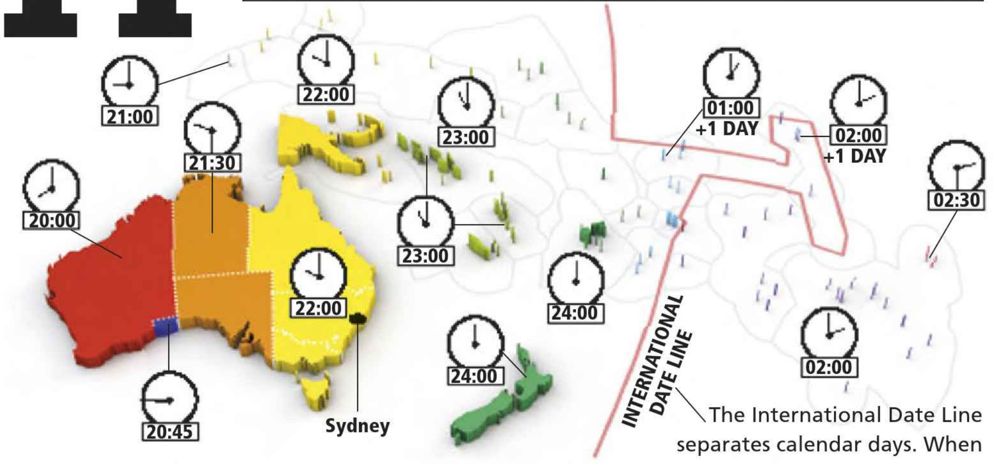
Road tunnel

Airport Link, Brisbane, Australia – 6.7 km (4.16 miles)

Number of time zones

11

The world is split into 39 time zones. Most are set whole hours ahead or behind Coordinated Universal Time (UCT) – the time at the Greenwich Meridian in London, UK. Some, however, are whole hours plus 30 or 45 minutes ahead or behind UCT. Therefore, on this map, if it was 12:00 in London, it would be 22:00 in Sydney, Australia (10 hours ahead of UCT).


21:00
22:00
23:00
01:00 +1 DAY
02:00 +1 DAY
21:30
20:00
02:30
23:00
22:00
24:00
INTERNATIONAL DATE LINE
24:00
02:00
20:45
Sydney

The International Date Line separates calendar days. When you cross it from west to east, you move ahead one day.

Longest coastline

Australia – **25,760 km (16,006.5 miles)**

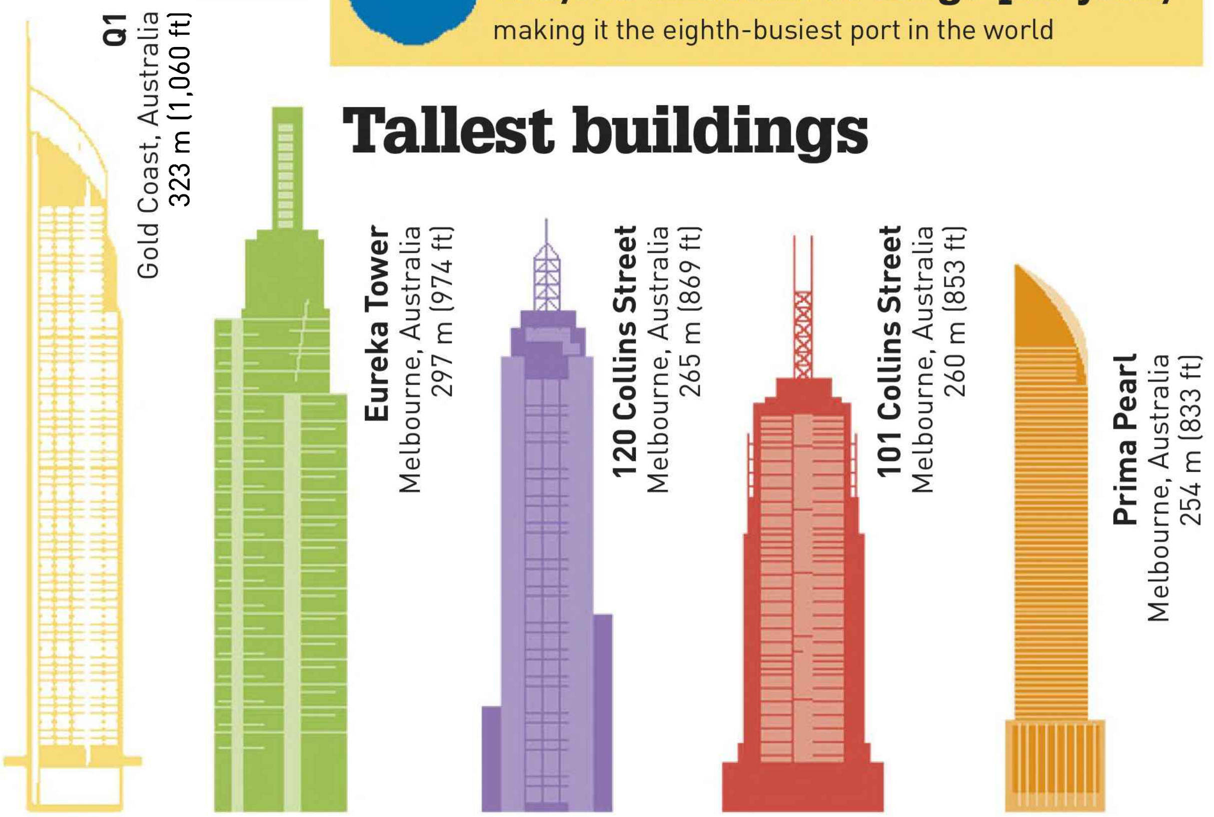
Busiest port

Port Hedland, Western Australia – **488,000 kilotons of cargo per year,** making it the eighth-busiest port in the world

Fastest train

Tilt Train, Australia – **210 km/h (130.5 mph)**

Tallest buildings


Q1
Gold Coast, Australia
323 m (1,060 ft)
Eureka Tower
Melbourne, Australia
297 m (974 ft)
120 Collins Street
Melbourne, Australia
265 m (869 ft)
101 Collins Street
Melbourne, Australia
260 m (853 ft)
Prima Pearl
Melbourne, Australia
254 m (833 ft)

Busiest airport Sydney Airport, Sydney, Australia – **39.7 million passengers per year**

BRIDGES

Longest bridge: Macleay River Bridge, Australia – **3.2 km (2 miles)**

Highest bridge: Mohaka Viaduct, Raupunga, New Zealand – **95 m (312 ft)**

Most visited cities (Visitors per year)

- **Sydney, Australia** 2.853 million
- **Melbourne, Australia** 2.166 million
- **Auckland, NZ** 1.965 million
- **Christchurch, NZ** 1.732 million
- **Brisbane, Australia** 1.066 million

WATERFALLS

Highest: **Browne Falls, New Zealand** – 836 m (2,744 ft)

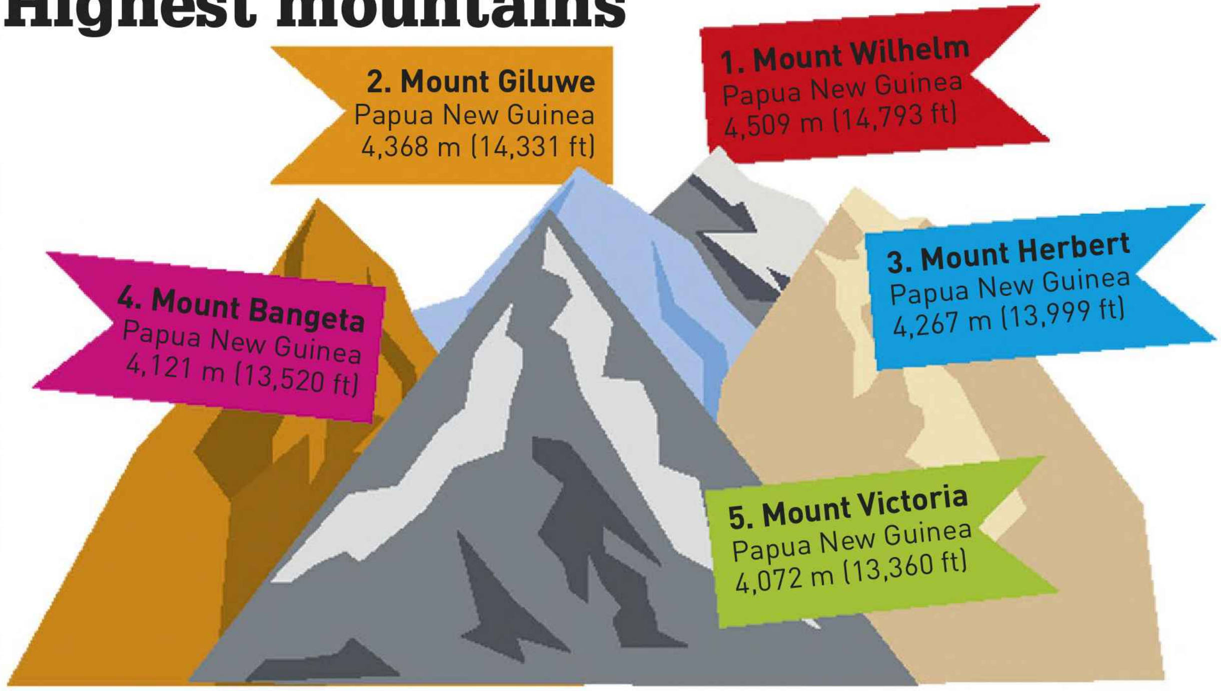
Largest (by volume): **Huka Falls, Taupo, New Zealand** – 220 m^3 (7,769 ft^3) of water per second

LAKES

Largest lake: Lake Eyre, Australia – **9,583 sq km (3,700 sq miles)**

Deepest lake: Lake Hauroko, New Zealand – **462 m (1,516 ft)**

Highest mountains



1. Mount Wilhelm Papua New Guinea 4,509 m (14,793 ft)

2. Mount Giluwe Papua New Guinea 4,368 m (14,331 ft)

3. Mount Herbert Papua New Guinea 4,267 m (13,999 ft)

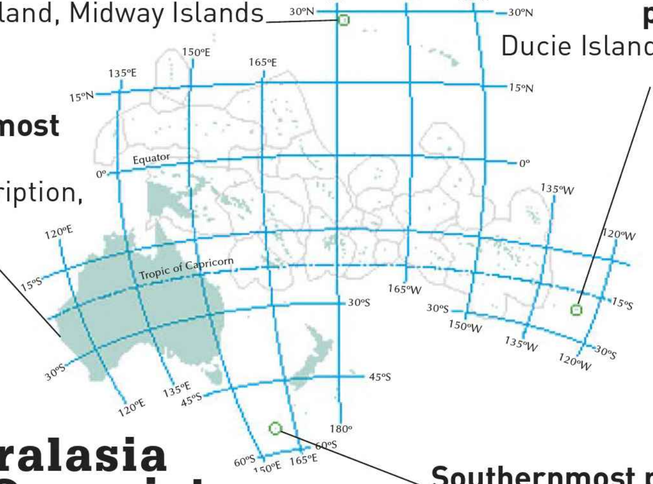
4. Mount Bangeta Papua New Guinea 4,121 m (13,520 ft)

5. Mount Victoria Papua New Guinea 4,072 m (13,360 ft)

HIGHEST VOLCANO

Mount Giluwe, Papua New Guinea – **4,368 m (14,331 ft)**

Australasia and Oceania's extreme points



Northernmost point: Eastern Island, Midway Islands 28° 15′ N

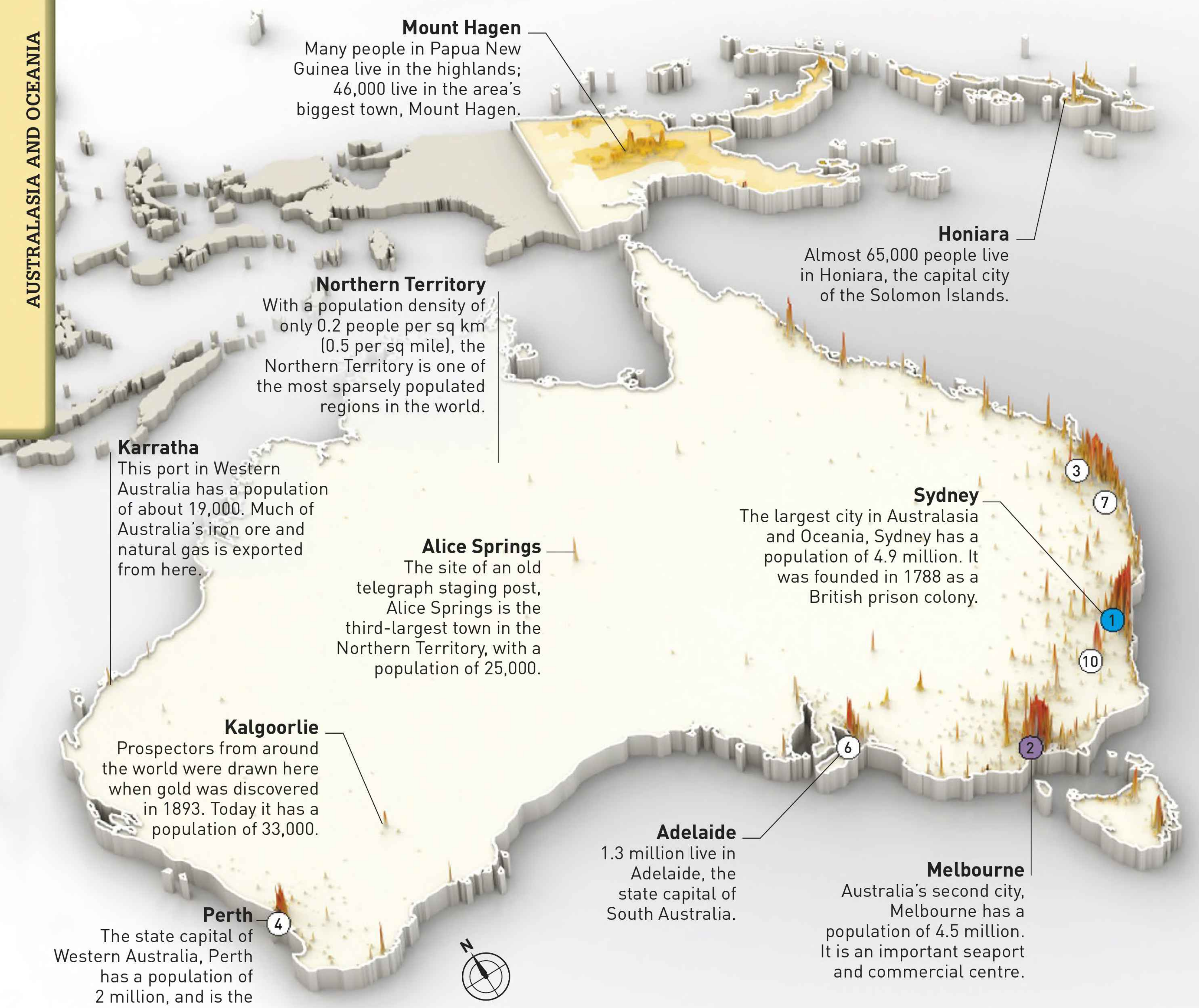
Easternmost point: Ducie Island 124° 47′ W

Westernmost point: Cape Inscription, Australia 112° 57′ E

Southernmost point: Macquarie Island, NZ 54° 30′ S

BIGGEST GLACIER

Tasman Glacier, New Zealand – **27 km (17 miles) long, with an area of 101 sq km (39 sq miles)**



Mount Hagen
Many people in Papua New Guinea live in the highlands; 46,000 live in the area's biggest town, Mount Hagen.

Honiara
Almost 65,000 people live in Honiara, the capital city of the Solomon Islands.

Northern Territory
With a population density of only 0.2 people per sq km (0.5 per sq mile), the Northern Territory is one of the most sparsely populated regions in the world.

Karratha
This port in Western Australia has a population of about 19,000. Much of Australia's iron ore and natural gas is exported from here.

Sydney
The largest city in Australasia and Oceania, Sydney has a population of 4.9 million. It was founded in 1788 as a British prison colony.

Alice Springs
The site of an old telegraph staging post, Alice Springs is the third-largest town in the Northern Territory, with a population of 25,000.

Kalgoorlie
Prospectors from around the world were drawn here when gold was discovered in 1893. Today it has a population of 33,000.

Adelaide
1.3 million live in Adelaide, the state capital of South Australia.

Melbourne
Australia's second city, Melbourne has a population of 4.5 million. It is an important seaport and commercial centre.

Perth
The state capital of Western Australia, Perth has a population of 2 million, and is the country's most isolated city.

Population

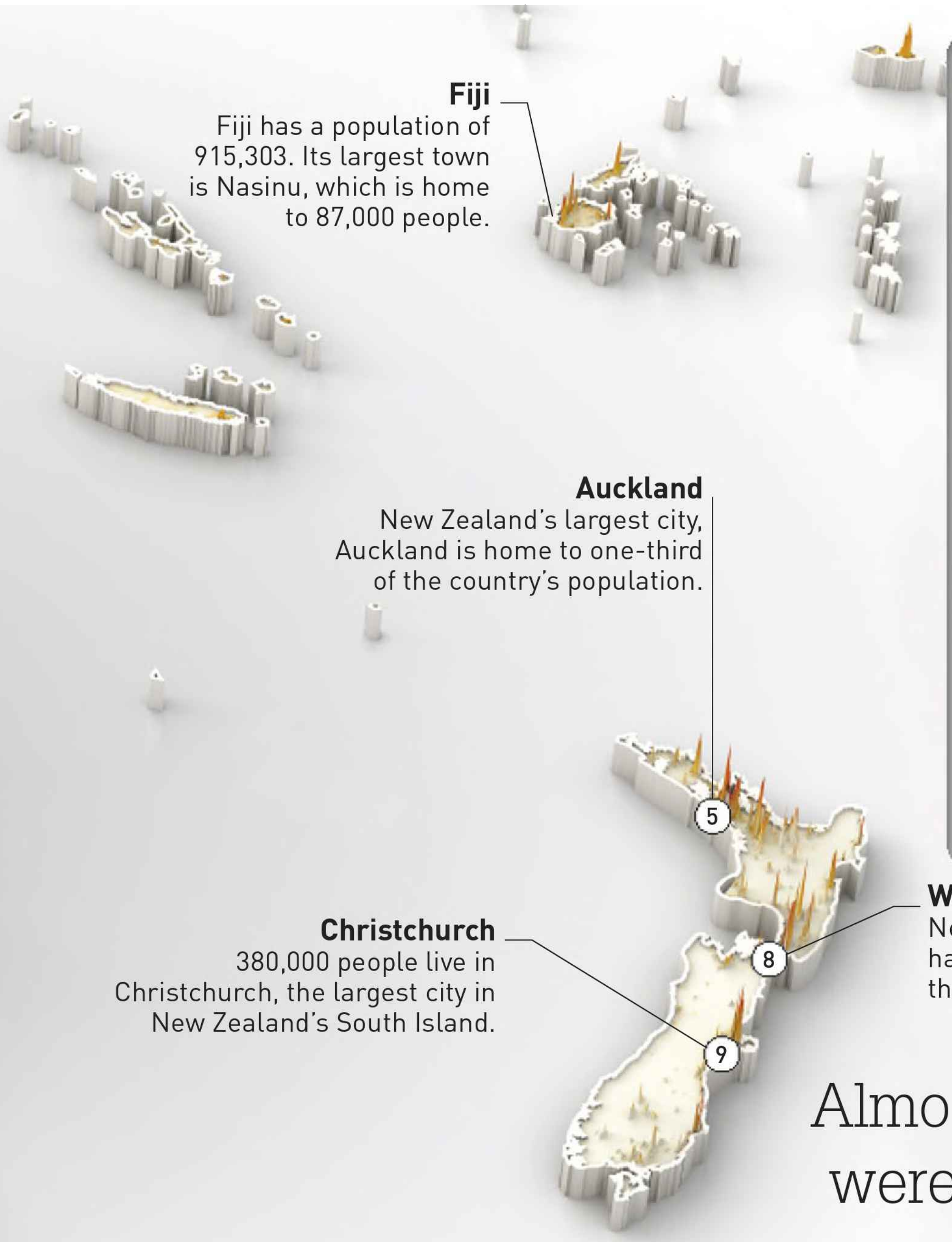
Australia's population is concentrated in the major cities of the south east, with very few people living in the continent's centre. In New Zealand, most people live in cities on the North Island, while the mountainous South Island is less populated.

KEY
The colours represent the number of people living per square kilometre/ square mile.

POPULATION DENSITY

people per sq mile	people per sq km
above 2,600	above 1,000
1,950	750
1,300	500
650	250
260	100
130	50

AUSTRALIA IS THE WORLD'S SIXTH LARGEST COUNTRY



Fiji
Fiji has a population of 915,303. Its largest town is Nasinu, which is home to 87,000 people.

Auckland
New Zealand's largest city, Auckland is home to one-third of the country's population.

Christchurch
380,000 people live in Christchurch, the largest city in New Zealand's South Island.

Wellington
New Zealand's capital, Wellington has a population of 400,000 and is the country's second-largest city.

Australasia and Oceania's largest cities

The list below is based on the number of people living inside a city's boundaries.

① **Sydney, Australia – 4.9 million**

② **Melbourne, Australia – 4.5 million**

③ **Brisbane, Australia – 2.3 million**

④ **Perth, Australia – 2 million**

⑤ **Auckland, New Zealand – 1.4 million**

⑥ **Adelaide, Australia – 1.3 million**

⑦ **Gold Coast, Australia – 530,000**

⑧ **Wellington, New Zealand – 400,000**

⑨ **Christchurch, New Zealand – 389,000**

⑩ **Canberra, Australia – 380,000**

Melbourne is the capital city of the Australian state of Victoria.

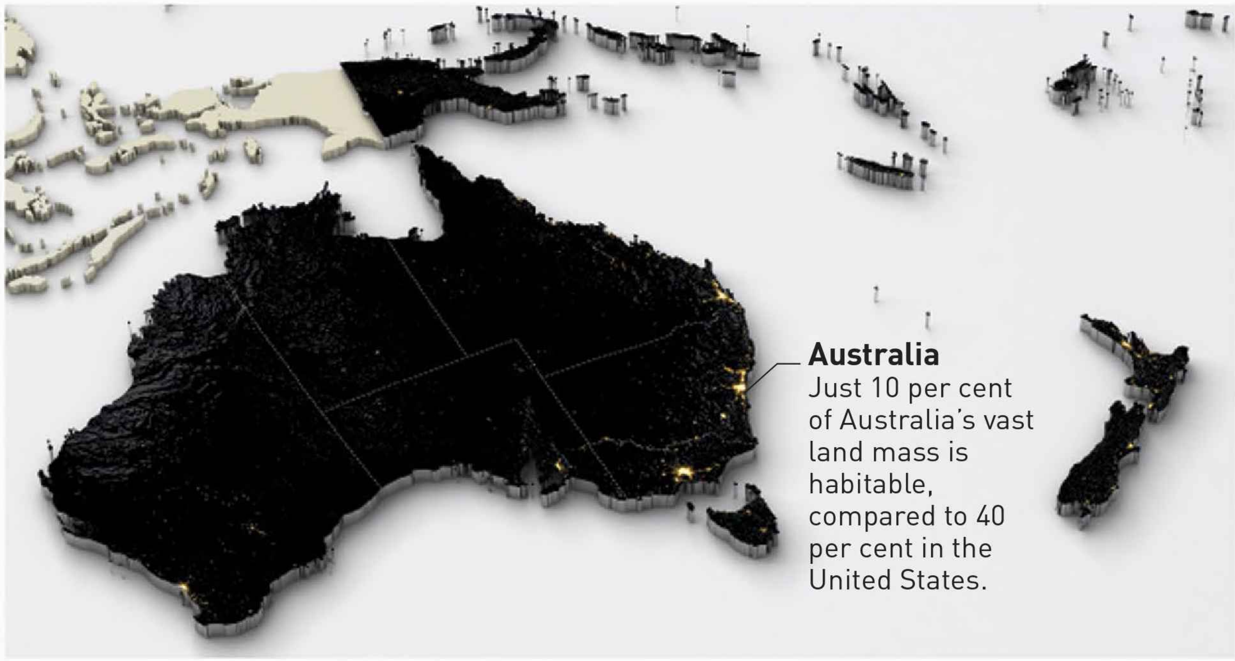
Almost ***one in three*** Australians were born **outside** the country.

BY NIGHT
The brightly lit cities of southeastern Australia shine brightly, and Sydney, Melbourne, and Brisbane are easy to spot. In contrast, the country's interior is shrouded in darkness. Auckland and Wellington are two of the bright points on New Zealand's North Island, with only Christchurch standing out on South Island.

KEY

■ **Rural area**

🟨 **Urban area**



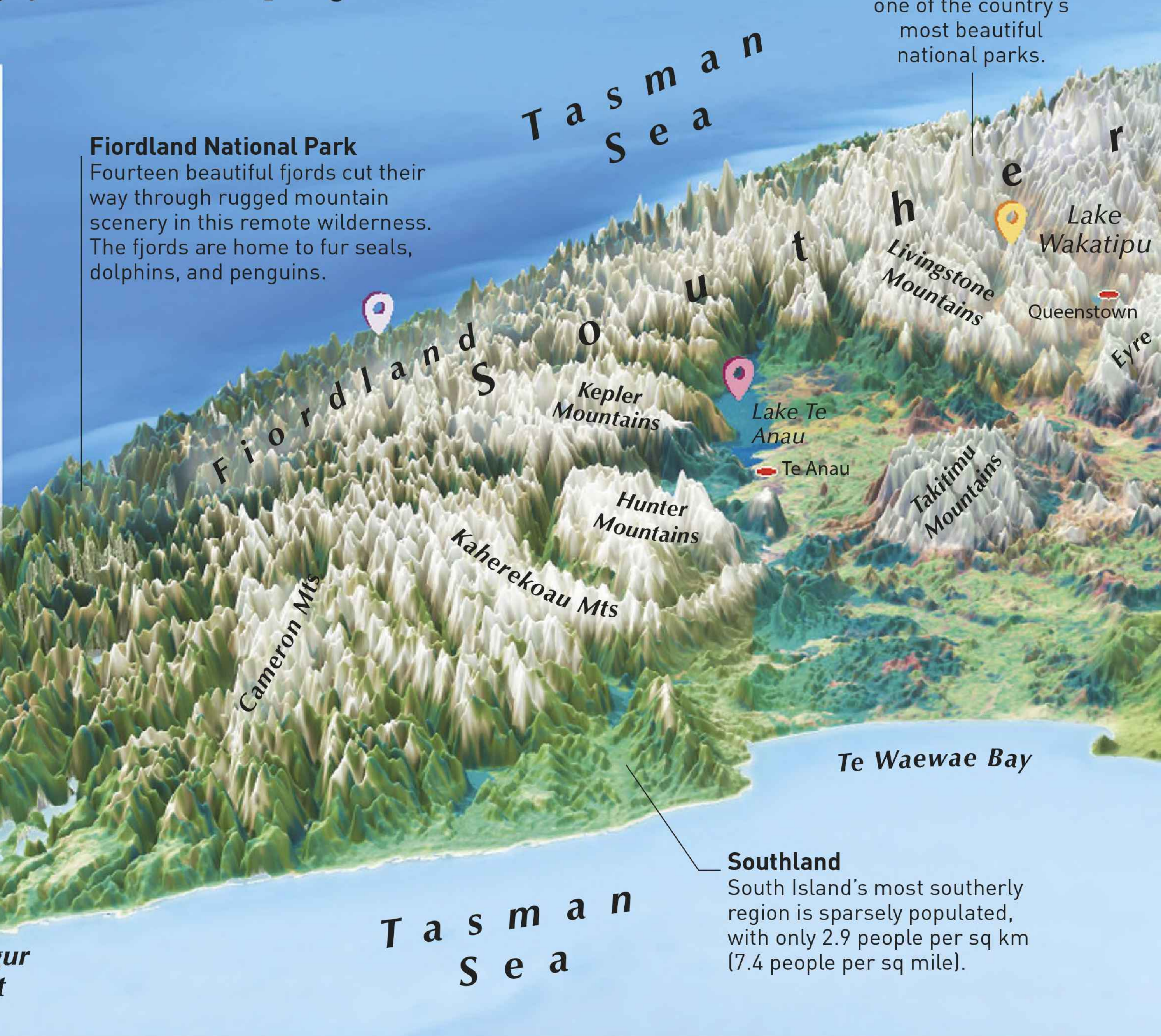
Australia
Just 10 per cent of Australia's vast land mass is habitable, compared to 40 per cent in the United States.

BY SIZE, BUT IT ONLY HAS A POPULATION OF 24.3 MILLION.

New Zealand

Almost one-third of New Zealand has been set aside as protected national park. Among its incredible range of landscapes are the towering peaks of the Southern Alps, and the geysers and hot springs of North Island.

Queenstown One of the biggest tourist resorts in the South Island, Queenstown attracts lovers of extreme sports, such as bungee jumping and white-water rafting.


Tasman Sea
Souther
Fiordland
Lake Wakatipu
Livingstone Mountains
Queenstown
Eyre
Kepler Mountains
Lake Te Anau
Te Anau
Hunter Mountains
Takitimu Mountains
Kaherekoau Mts
Cameron Mts
Resolution Island
Te Waewae Bay
Puysegur Point
Tasman Sea

Fiordland National Park
Fourteen beautiful fjords cut their way through rugged mountain scenery in this remote wilderness. The fjords are home to fur seals, dolphins, and penguins.

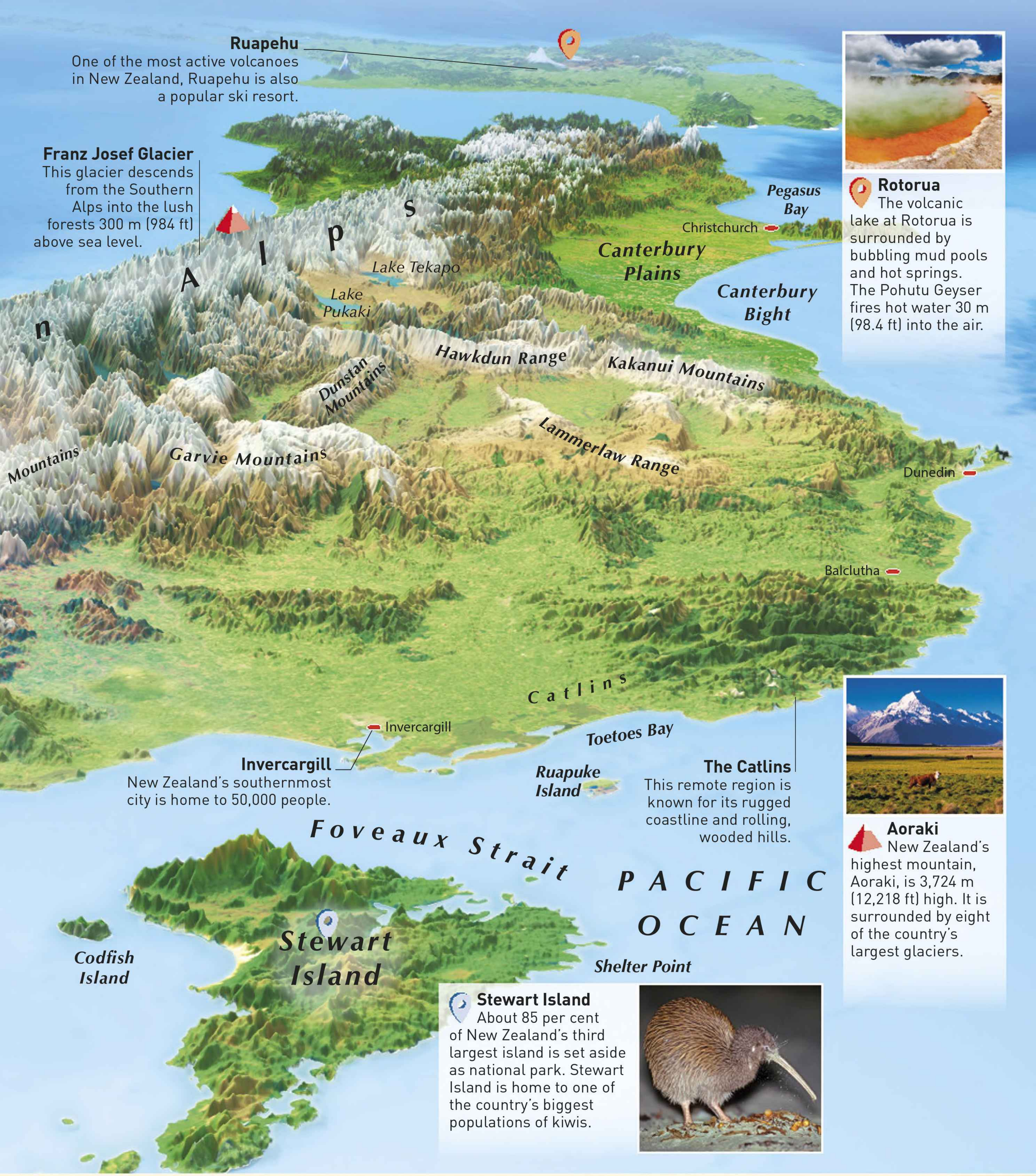
Mount Aspiring National Park
Soaring peaks, alpine lakes, and dense forests make this one of the country's most beautiful national parks.

Southland
South Island's most southerly region is sparsely populated, with only 2.9 people per sq km (7.4 people per sq mile).

Milford Sound This 16-km (10-mile) long fjord is one of the highlights of the Fiordland National Park. The surrounding mountains are very popular with hikers.

Lake Te Anau With a depth of up to 417 m (1,368 ft), Lake Te Anau contains the largest amount of freshwater in Australasia and Oceania. It is a popular destination for fishing and water sports.

A ROCK SLIDE IN 1991 TOOK 40 M (131 FT) FROM THE



Ruapehu
n
A
l
p
s
Lake Tekapo
Lake Pukaki
Pegasus Bay
Christchurch
Canterbury Plains
Canterbury Bight
Dunstan Mountains
Hawkdun Range
Kakanui Mountains
Mountains
Garvie Mountains
Lammerlaw Range
Dunedin
Balclutha
Catlins
Invercargill
Toetoes Bay
Ruapuke Island
Foveaux Strait
PACIFIC OCEAN
Codfish Island
Stewart Island
Shelter Point

Ruapehu
One of the most active volcanoes in New Zealand, Ruapehu is also a popular ski resort.

Franz Josef Glacier
This glacier descends from the Southern Alps into the lush forests 300 m (984 ft) above sea level.

Rotorua
The volcanic lake at Rotorua is surrounded by bubbling mud pools and hot springs. The Pohutu Geyser fires hot water 30 m (98.4 ft) into the air.

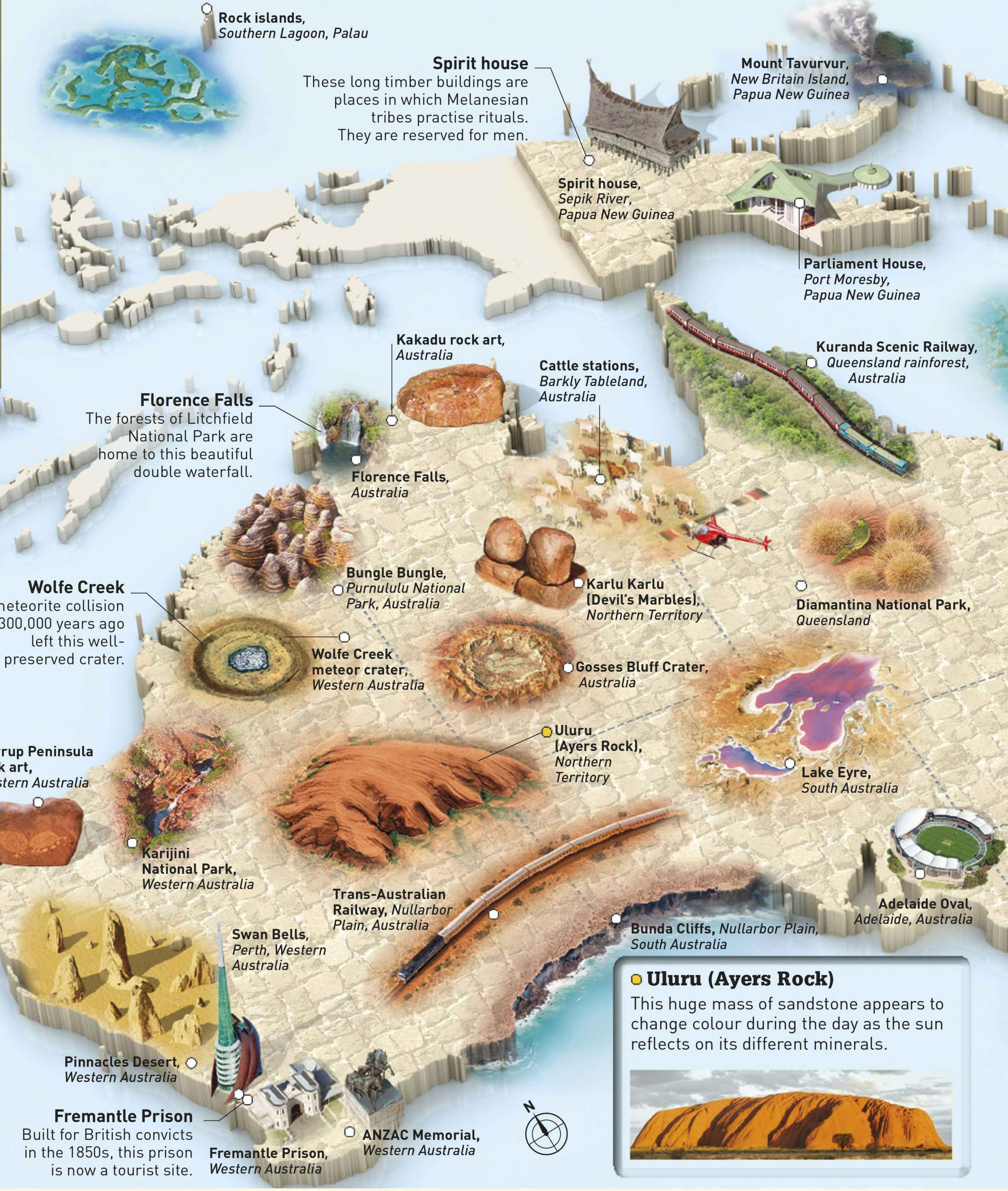
Invercargill
New Zealand's southernmost city is home to 50,000 people.

The Catlins
This remote region is known for its rugged coastline and rolling, wooded hills.

Aoraki
New Zealand's highest mountain, Aoraki, is 3,724 m (12,218 ft) high. It is surrounded by eight of the country's largest glaciers.

Stewart Island
About 85 per cent of New Zealand's third largest island is set aside as national park. Stewart Island is home to one of the country's biggest populations of kiwis.

TOP OF AORAKI, NEW ZEALAND'S HIGHEST MOUNTAIN.


Rock islands, *Southern Lagoon, Palau*
Mount Tavurvur, *New Britain Island, Papua New Guinea*
Spirit house, *Sepik River, Papua New Guinea*
Parliament House, *Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea*
Kakadu rock art, *Australia*
Cattle stations, *Barkly Tableland, Australia*
Kuranda Scenic Railway, *Queensland rainforest, Australia*
Florence Falls, *Australia*
Bungle Bungle, *Purnululu National Park, Australia*
Karlu Karlu (Devil's Marbles), *Northern Territory*
Diamantina National Park, *Queensland*
Wolfe Creek meteor crater, *Western Australia*
Gosses Bluff Crater, *Australia*
Uluru (Ayers Rock), *Northern Territory*
Lake Eyre, *South Australia*
Burrup Peninsula rock art, *Western Australia*
Karijini National Park, *Western Australia*
Trans-Australian Railway, *Nullarbor Plain, Australia*
Adelaide Oval, *Adelaide, Australia*
Bunda Cliffs, *Nullarbor Plain, South Australia*
Swan Bells, *Perth, Western Australia*
Pinnacles Desert, *Western Australia*
Fremantle Prison, *Western Australia*
ANZAC Memorial, *Western Australia*
N

Spirit house
These long timber buildings are places in which Melanesian tribes practise rituals. They are reserved for men.

Florence Falls
The forests of Litchfield National Park are home to this beautiful double waterfall.

Wolfe Creek
A meteorite collision 300,000 years ago left this well-preserved crater.

Fremantle Prison
Built for British convicts in the 1850s, this prison is now a tourist site.

Uluru (Ayers Rock)
This huge mass of sandstone appears to change colour during the day as the sun reflects on its different minerals.

IT TAKES 65 HOURS TO MAKE THE 4,352-KM (2,704-MILE) JOURNEY

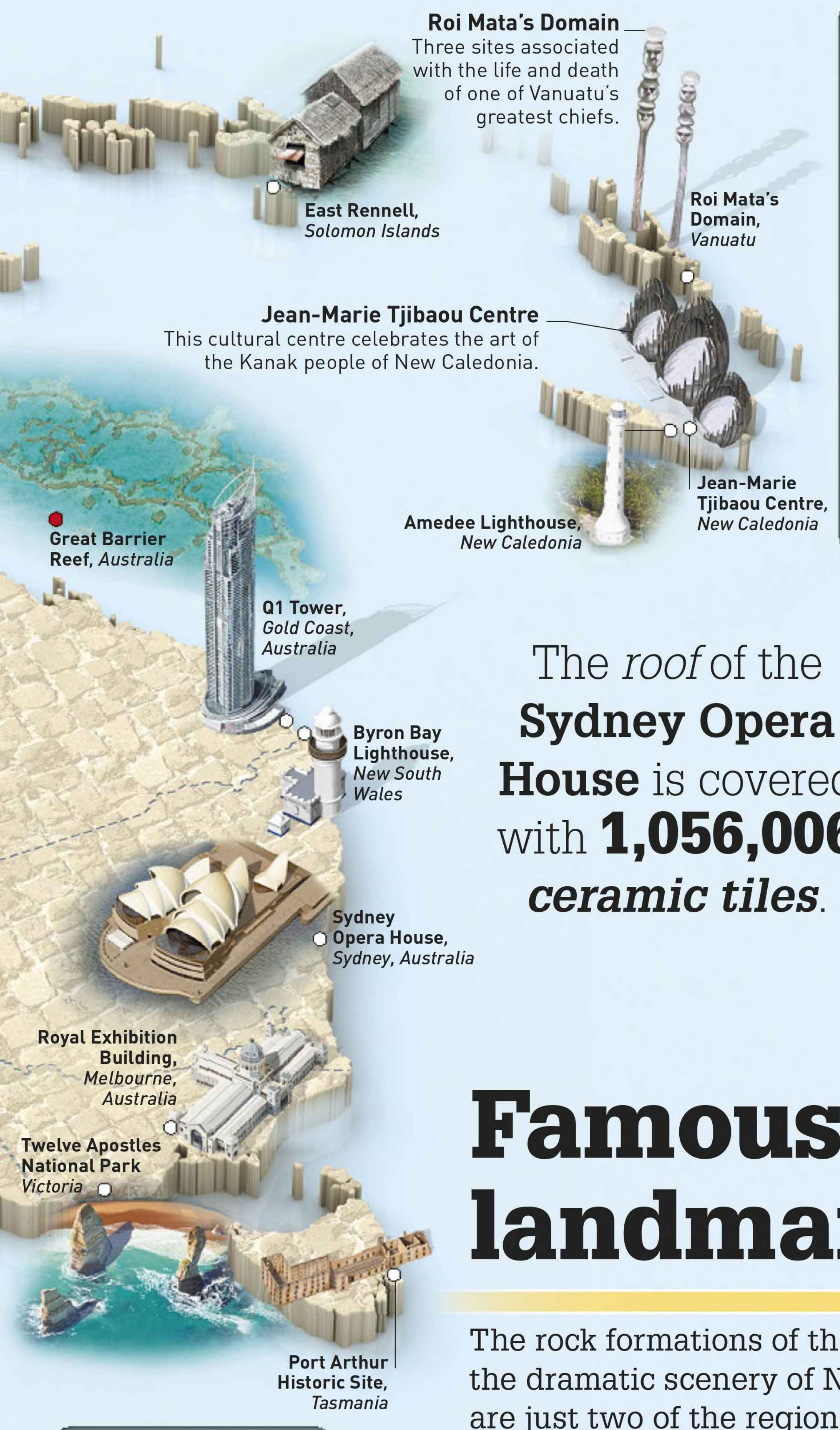
Famous landmarks

The rock formations of the Australian Outback and the dramatic scenery of New Zealand's fjordland are just two of the region's many natural wonders. The region is also home to some iconic modern architecture, such as the Sydney Opera House.

● The Great Barrier Reef

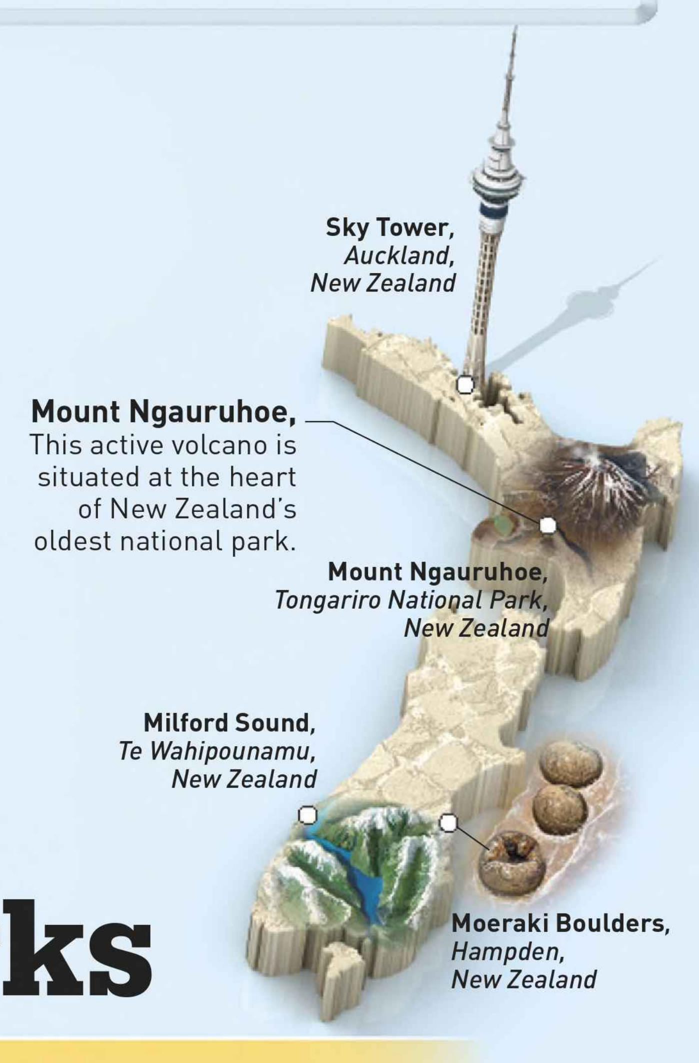
One of the natural wonders of the world, the Great Barrier Reef stretches for 2,600 km (1,600 miles) along the northeastern coast of Australia. The reef is made of coral, which is built by billions of tiny creatures over hundreds of years. It is home to about 1,500 species of fish, 14 species of sea snake, and more than 3,000 different types of mollusc.

The *roof* of the **Sydney Opera House** is covered with **1,056,006** ***ceramic tiles***.


Roi Mata's Domain
East Rennell, *Solomon Islands*
Roi Mata's Domain, *Vanuatu*
Jean-Marie Tjibaou Centre
Jean-Marie Tjibaou Centre, *New Caledonia*
Amedee Lighthouse, *New Caledonia*
Great Barrier Reef, *Australia*
Q1 Tower, *Gold Coast, Australia*
Byron Bay Lighthouse, *New South Wales*
Sydney Opera House, *Sydney, Australia*
Royal Exhibition Building, *Melbourne, Australia*
Twelve Apostles National Park *Victoria*
Port Arthur Historic Site, *Tasmania*

Roi Mata's Domain
Three sites associated with the life and death of one of Vanuatu's greatest chiefs.

Jean-Marie Tjibaou Centre
This cultural centre celebrates the art of the Kanak people of New Caledonia.


Sky Tower, *Auckland, New Zealand*
Mount Ngauruhoe, *Tongariro National Park, New Zealand*
Milford Sound, *Te Wahipounamu, New Zealand*
Moeraki Boulders, *Hampden, New Zealand*

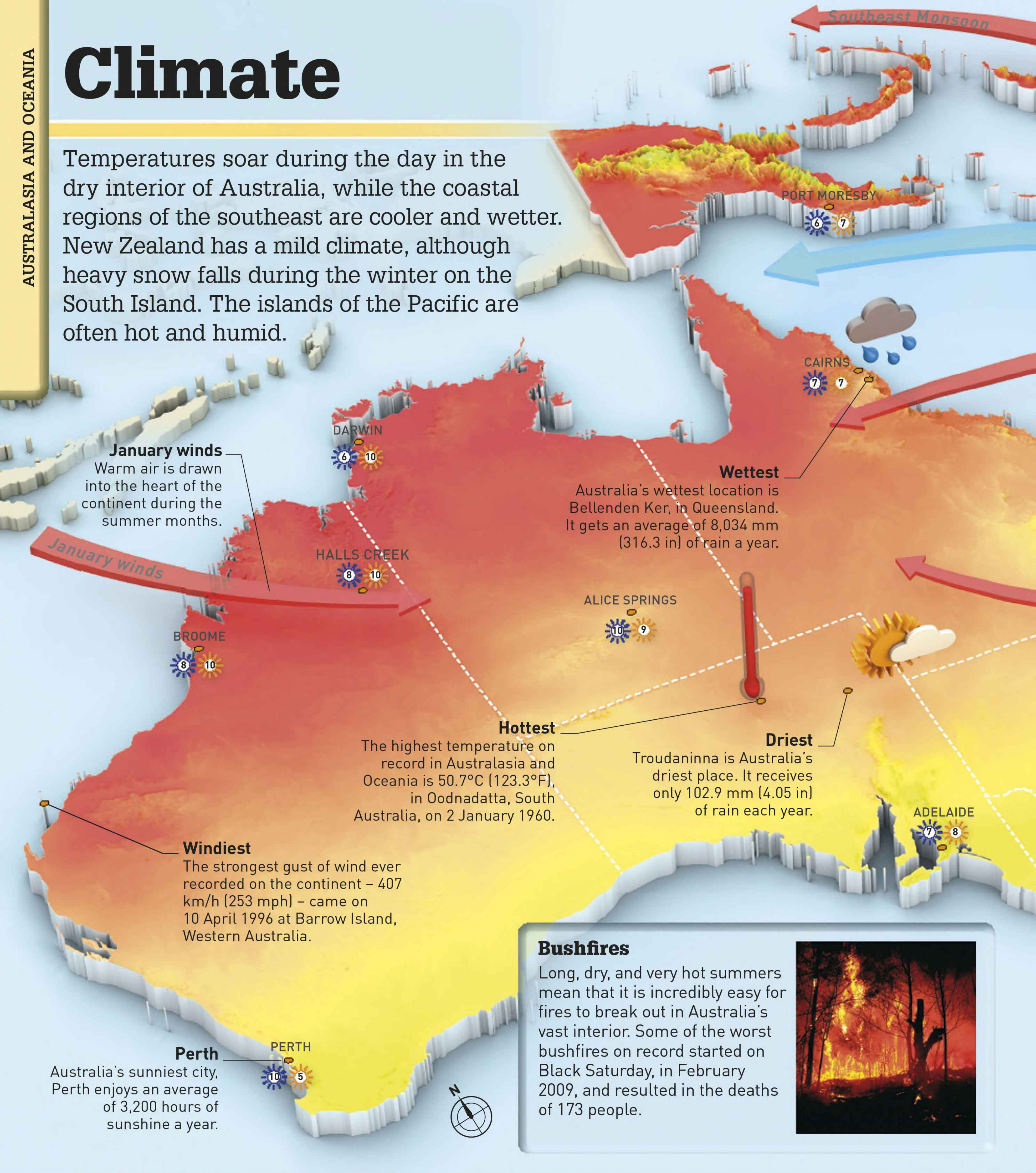
Mount Ngauruhoe,
This active volcano is situated at the heart of New Zealand's oldest national park.

KEY
○ Landmark location

FROM SYDNEY TO PERTH ON THE TRANS-AUSTRALIAN RAILWAY.

Climate

Temperatures soar during the day in the dry interior of Australia, while the coastal regions of the southeast are cooler and wetter. New Zealand has a mild climate, although heavy snow falls during the winter on the South Island. The islands of the Pacific are often hot and humid.



January winds
Warm air is drawn into the heart of the continent during the summer months.

Wettest
Australia's wettest location is Bellenden Ker, in Queensland. It gets an average of 8,034 mm (316.3 in) of rain a year.

Hottest
The highest temperature on record in Australasia and Oceania is 50.7°C (123.3°F), in Oodnadatta, South Australia, on 2 January 1960.

Driest
Troudaninna is Australia's driest place. It receives only 102.9 mm (4.05 in) of rain each year.

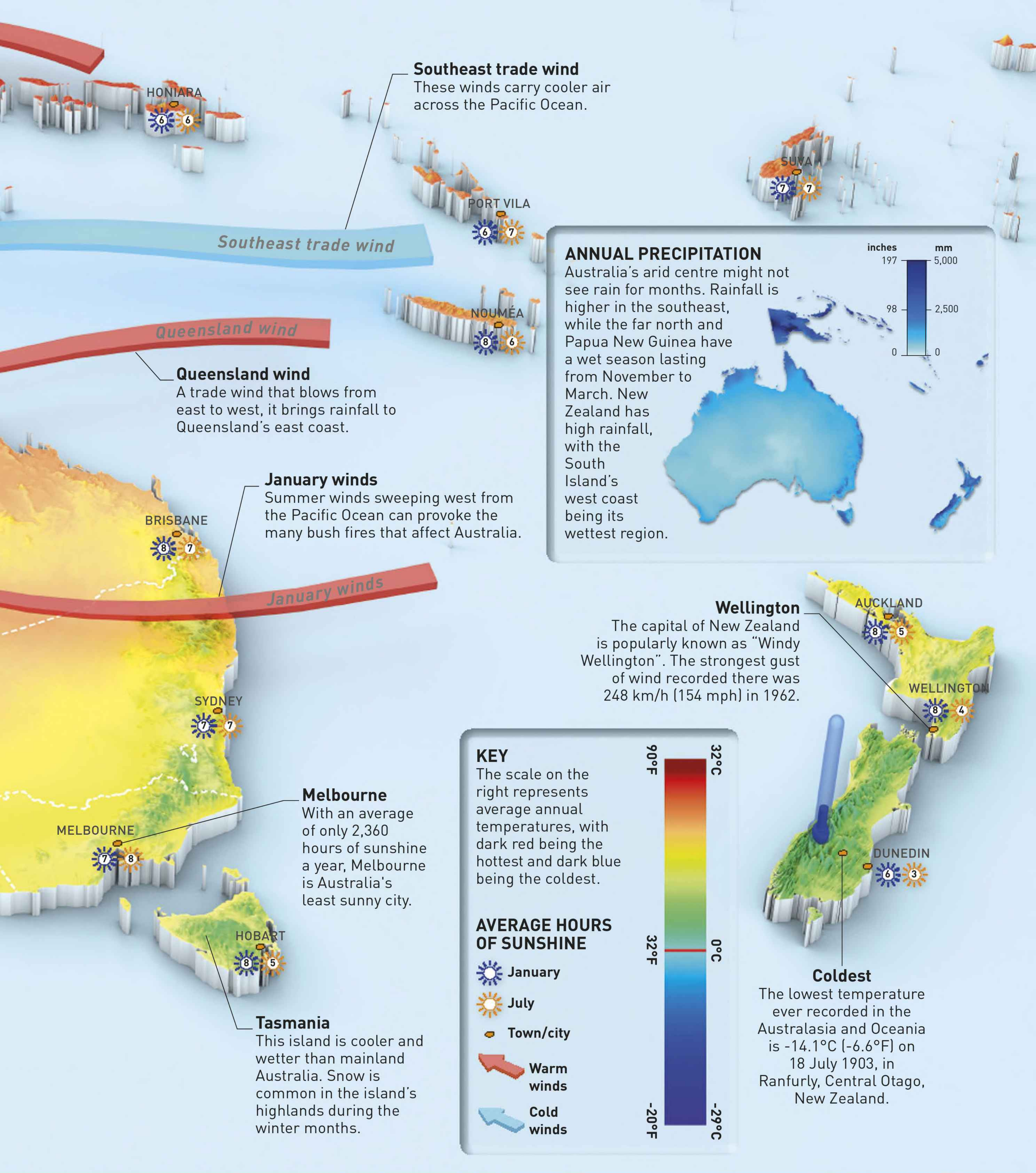
Windiest
The strongest gust of wind ever recorded on the continent – 407 km/h (253 mph) – came on 10 April 1996 at Barrow Island, Western Australia.

Perth
Australia's sunniest city, Perth enjoys an average of 3,200 hours of sunshine a year.

Bushfires

Long, dry, and very hot summers mean that it is incredibly easy for fires to break out in Australia's vast interior. Some of the worst bushfires on record started on Black Saturday, in February 2009, and resulted in the deaths of 173 people.

IN MAY 2015, THE RESIDENTS OF GOULBURN, NSW, AUSTRALIA, AWOKE


HONIARA
6
6
PORT VILA
6
7
SUVA
7
7
NOUMÉA
8
6
Southeast trade wind
Queensland wind
January winds
BRISBANE
8
7
SYDNEY
7
7
MELBOURNE
7
8
HOBART
8
5
AUCKLAND
8
5
WELLINGTON
8
4
DUNEDIN
6
3
inches
mm
197
5,000
98
2,500
0
0
90°F
32°C
32°F
0°C
-20°F
-29°C

Southeast trade wind
These winds carry cooler air across the Pacific Ocean.

Queensland wind
A trade wind that blows from east to west, it brings rainfall to Queensland's east coast.

January winds
Summer winds sweeping west from the Pacific Ocean can provoke the many bush fires that affect Australia.

Melbourne
With an average of only 2,360 hours of sunshine a year, Melbourne is Australia's least sunny city.

Tasmania
This island is cooler and wetter than mainland Australia. Snow is common in the island's highlands during the winter months.

ANNUAL PRECIPITATION

Australia's arid centre might not see rain for months. Rainfall is higher in the southeast, while the far north and Papua New Guinea have a wet season lasting from November to March. New Zealand has high rainfall, with the South Island's west coast being its wettest region.

Wellington
The capital of New Zealand is popularly known as "Windy Wellington". The strongest gust of wind recorded there was 248 km/h (154 mph) in 1962.

KEY

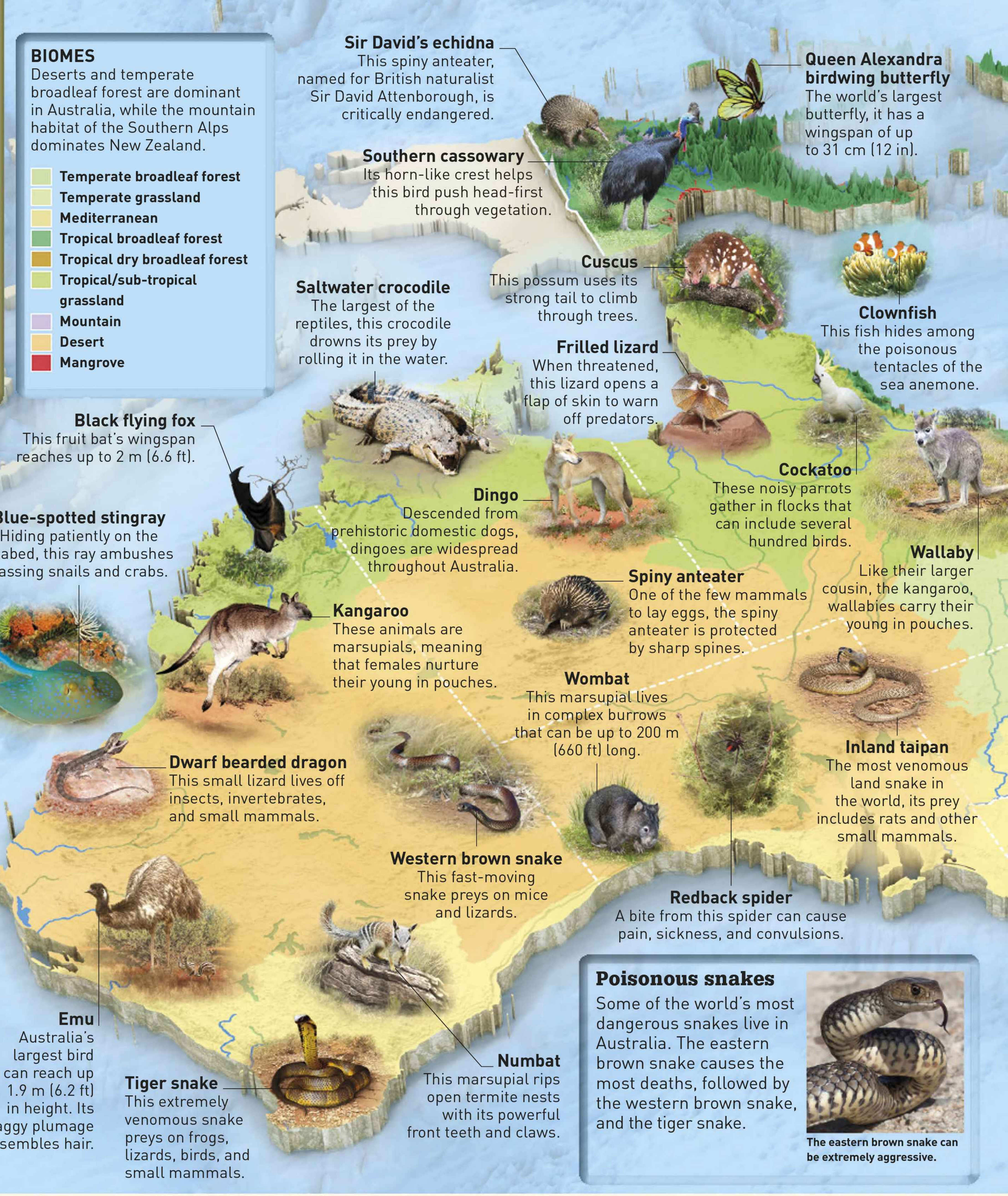
The scale on the right represents average annual temperatures, with dark red being the hottest and dark blue being the coldest.

AVERAGE HOURS OF SUNSHINE

- ☼ January
- ☼ July
- ● Town/city
- ➜ Warm winds
- ➜ Cold winds

Coldest
The lowest temperature ever recorded in the Australasia and Oceania is -14.1°C (-6.6°F) on 18 July 1903, in Ranfurly, Central Otago, New Zealand.

TO FIND THOUSANDS OF SPIDERS HAD RAINED ONTO THEIR TOWN.



BIOMES

Deserts and temperate broadleaf forest are dominant in Australia, while the mountain habitat of the Southern Alps dominates New Zealand.

- 🟩 **Temperate broadleaf forest**
- 🟩 **Temperate grassland**
- 🟨 **Mediterranean**
- 🟩 **Tropical broadleaf forest**
- 🟫 **Tropical dry broadleaf forest**
- 🟩 **Tropical/sub-tropical grassland**
- 🟪 **Mountain**
- 🟧 **Desert**
- 🟥 **Mangrove**

Sir David's echidna
This spiny anteater, named for British naturalist Sir David Attenborough, is critically endangered.

Queen Alexandra birdwing butterfly
The world's largest butterfly, it has a wingspan of up to 31 cm (12 in).

Southern cassowary
Its horn-like crest helps this bird push head-first through vegetation.

Cuscus
This possum uses its strong tail to climb through trees.

Clownfish
This fish hides among the poisonous tentacles of the sea anemone.

Saltwater crocodile
The largest of the reptiles, this crocodile drowns its prey by rolling it in the water.

Frilled lizard
When threatened, this lizard opens a flap of skin to warn off predators.

Black flying fox
This fruit bat's wingspan reaches up to 2 m (6.6 ft).

Cockatoo
These noisy parrots gather in flocks that can include several hundred birds.

Dingo
Descended from prehistoric domestic dogs, dingoes are widespread throughout Australia.

Blue-spotted stingray
Hiding patiently on the seabed, this ray ambushes passing snails and crabs.

Wallaby
Like their larger cousin, the kangaroo, wallabies carry their young in pouches.

Spiny anteater
One of the few mammals to lay eggs, the spiny anteater is protected by sharp spines.

Kangaroo
These animals are marsupials, meaning that females nurture their young in pouches.

Wombat
This marsupial lives in complex burrows that can be up to 200 m (660 ft) long.

Inland taipan
The most venomous land snake in the world, its prey includes rats and other small mammals.

Dwarf bearded dragon
This small lizard lives off insects, invertebrates, and small mammals.

Western brown snake
This fast-moving snake preys on mice and lizards.

Redback spider
A bite from this spider can cause pain, sickness, and convulsions.

Emu
Australia's largest bird can reach up to 1.9 m (6.2 ft) in height. Its shaggy plumage resembles hair.

Tiger snake
This extremely venomous snake preys on frogs, lizards, birds, and small mammals.

Numbat
This marsupial rips open termite nests with its powerful front teeth and claws.

Poisonous snakes

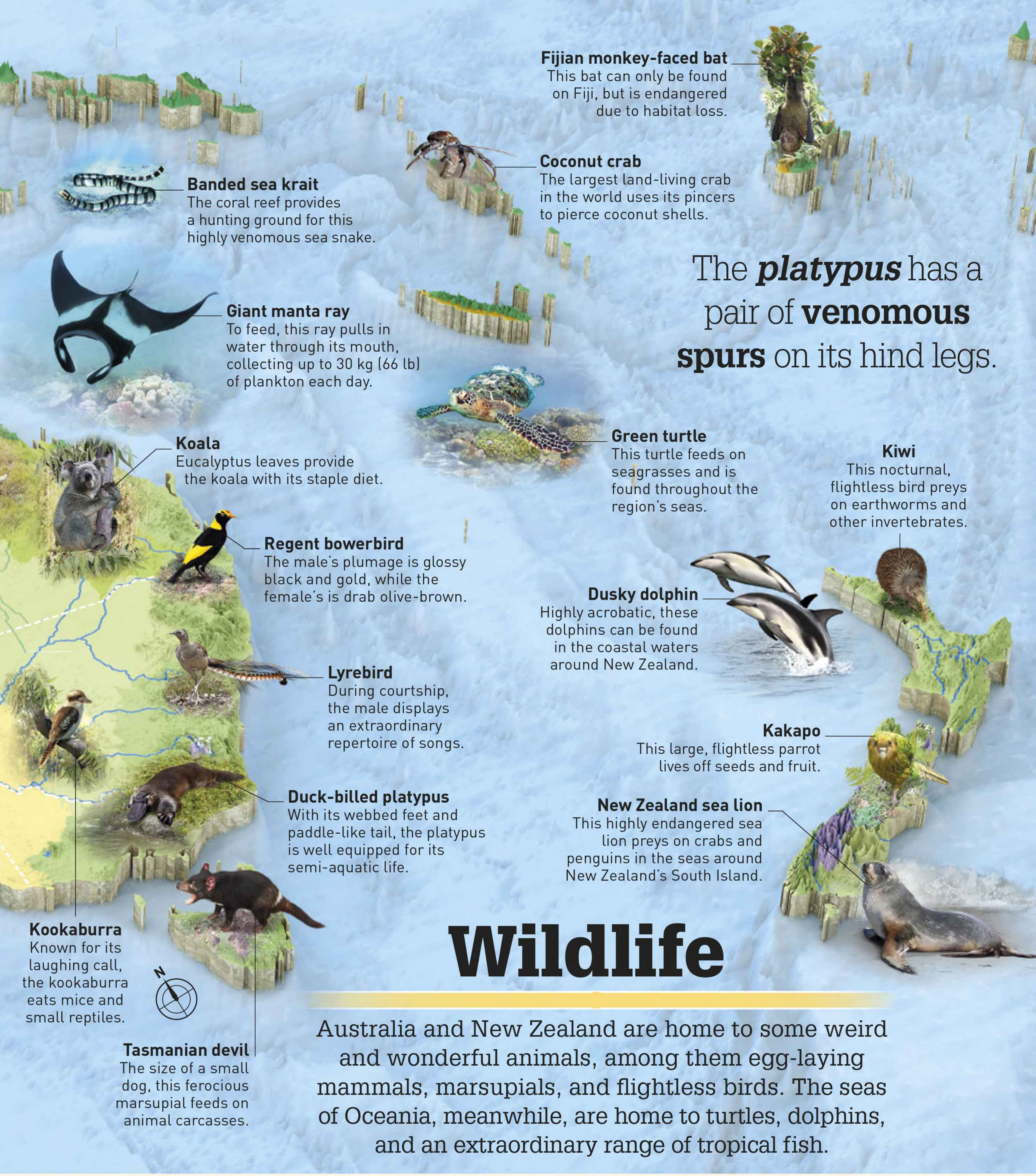
Some of the world's most dangerous snakes live in Australia. The eastern brown snake causes the most deaths, followed by the western brown snake, and the tiger snake.

The eastern brown snake can be extremely aggressive.

AUSTRALIA IS HOME TO AROUND 300,000 WILD CAMELS - DESCENDANTS

Wildlife

Australia and New Zealand are home to some weird and wonderful animals, among them egg-laying mammals, marsupials, and flightless birds. The seas of Oceania, meanwhile, are home to turtles, dolphins, and an extraordinary range of tropical fish.



Fijian monkey-faced bat
This bat can only be found on Fiji, but is endangered due to habitat loss.

Coconut crab
The largest land-living crab in the world uses its pincers to pierce coconut shells.

Banded sea krait
The coral reef provides a hunting ground for this highly venomous sea snake.

Giant manta ray
To feed, this ray pulls in water through its mouth, collecting up to 30 kg (66 lb) of plankton each day.

Koala
Eucalyptus leaves provide the koala with its staple diet.

Green turtle
This turtle feeds on seagrasses and is found throughout the region's seas.

Kiwi
This nocturnal, flightless bird preys on earthworms and other invertebrates.

Regent bowerbird
The male's plumage is glossy black and gold, while the female's is drab olive-brown.

Dusky dolphin
Highly acrobatic, these dolphins can be found in the coastal waters around New Zealand.

Lyrebird
During courtship, the male displays an extraordinary repertoire of songs.

Kakapo
This large, flightless parrot lives off seeds and fruit.

Duck-billed platypus
With its webbed feet and paddle-like tail, the platypus is well equipped for its semi-aquatic life.

New Zealand sea lion
This highly endangered sea lion preys on crabs and penguins in the seas around New Zealand's South Island.

Kookaburra
Known for its laughing call, the kookaburra eats mice and small reptiles.

Tasmanian devil
The size of a small dog, this ferocious marsupial feeds on animal carcasses.

The *platypus* has a pair of **venomous spurs** on its hind legs.

OF CAMELS BROUGHT TO THE COUNTRY IN THE 19TH CENTURY.

POLAR REGIONS

Extreme cold

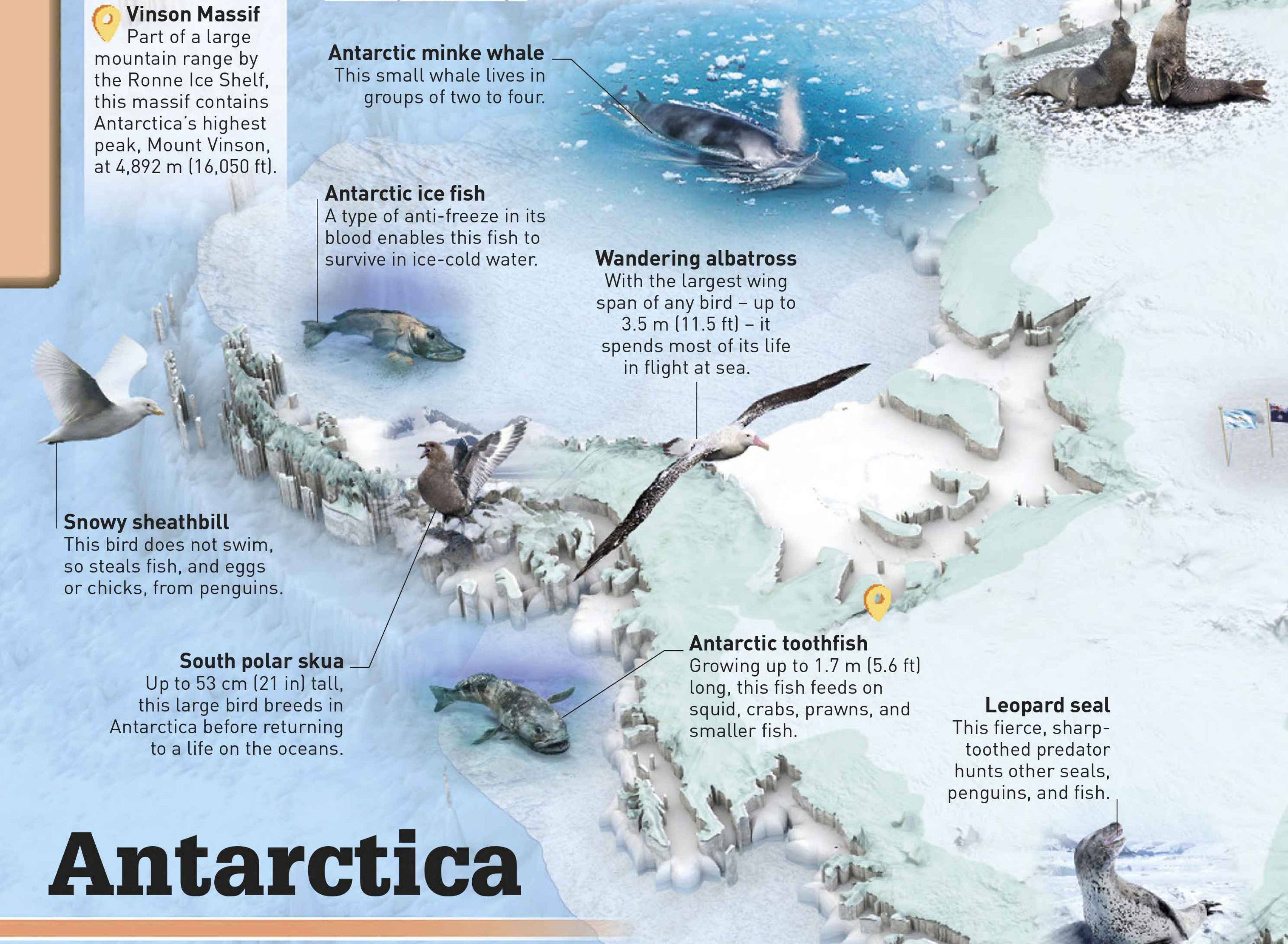
The North and South Poles are the northernmost and southernmost points on Earth. The climate there is extremely harsh, with temperatures rarely rising above 0°C (32°F).

Antarctica

Earth's southernmost continent is the coldest region in the world, with temperatures reaching as low as -93.2°C (-135.8°F). Despite the harsh conditions, the continent is home to a number of animals. However, climate change is a threat to both Antarctica's animals and landscape.

Vinson Massif
Part of a large mountain range by the Ronne Ice Shelf, this massif contains Antarctica's highest peak, Mount Vinson, at 4,892 m (16,050 ft).

South Pole Station
The Amundsen-Scott research station is located at the Geographical South Pole. First opened in 1956, it can house up to 200 researchers.



Southern elephant seal
The largest of all seals, males can be over 6 m (20 ft) long and weigh up to 4,000 kg (8,800 lb).

Antarctic minke whale
This small whale lives in groups of two to four.

Antarctic ice fish
A type of anti-freeze in its blood enables this fish to survive in ice-cold water.

Wandering albatross
With the largest wing span of any bird – up to 3.5 m (11.5 ft) – it spends most of its life in flight at sea.

Snowy sheathbill
This bird does not swim, so steals fish, and eggs or chicks, from penguins.

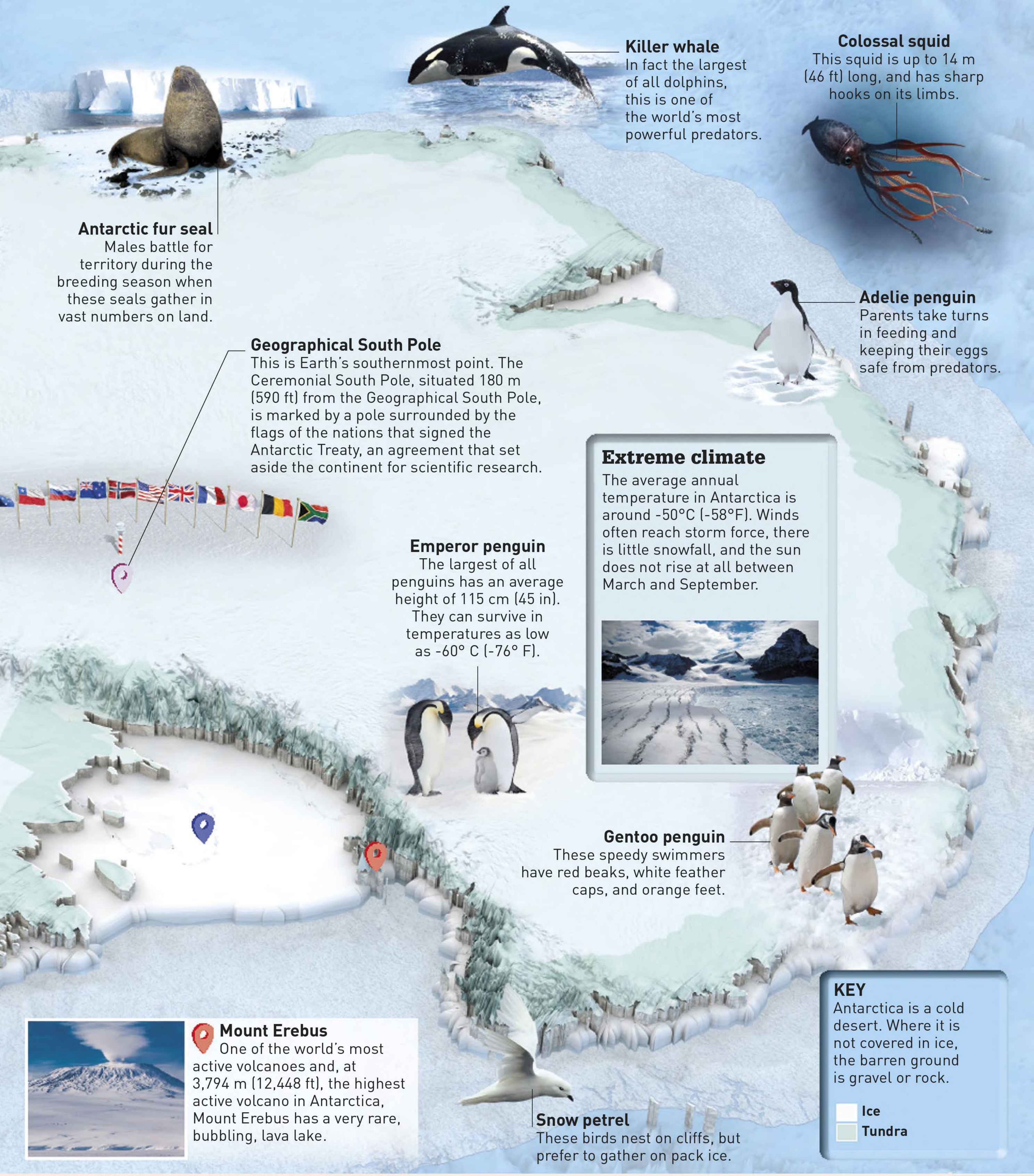
South polar skua
Up to 53 cm (21 in) tall, this large bird breeds in Antarctica before returning to a life on the oceans.

Antarctic toothfish
Growing up to 1.7 m (5.6 ft) long, this fish feeds on squid, crabs, prawns, and smaller fish.

Leopard seal
This fierce, sharp-toothed predator hunts other seals, penguins, and fish.

Ross Ice Shelf
This enormous layer of floating ice is over 600 km (370 miles) long. About 90 per cent of its ice lies underwater.

ANTARCTICA CONTAINS ABOUT 90 PER CENT OF THE WORLD'S ICE. IF



Killer whale
In fact the largest of all dolphins, this is one of the world's most powerful predators.

Colossal squid
This squid is up to 14 m (46 ft) long, and has sharp hooks on its limbs.

Antarctic fur seal
Males battle for territory during the breeding season when these seals gather in vast numbers on land.

Geographical South Pole
This is Earth's southernmost point. The Ceremonial South Pole, situated 180 m (590 ft) from the Geographical South Pole, is marked by a pole surrounded by the flags of the nations that signed the Antarctic Treaty, an agreement that set aside the continent for scientific research.

Adelie penguin
Parents take turns in feeding and keeping their eggs safe from predators.

Extreme climate

The average annual temperature in Antarctica is around -50°C (-58°F). Winds often reach storm force, there is little snowfall, and the sun does not rise at all between March and September.

Emperor penguin
The largest of all penguins has an average height of 115 cm (45 in). They can survive in temperatures as low as -60° C (-76° F).

Gentoo penguin
These speedy swimmers have red beaks, white feather caps, and orange feet.

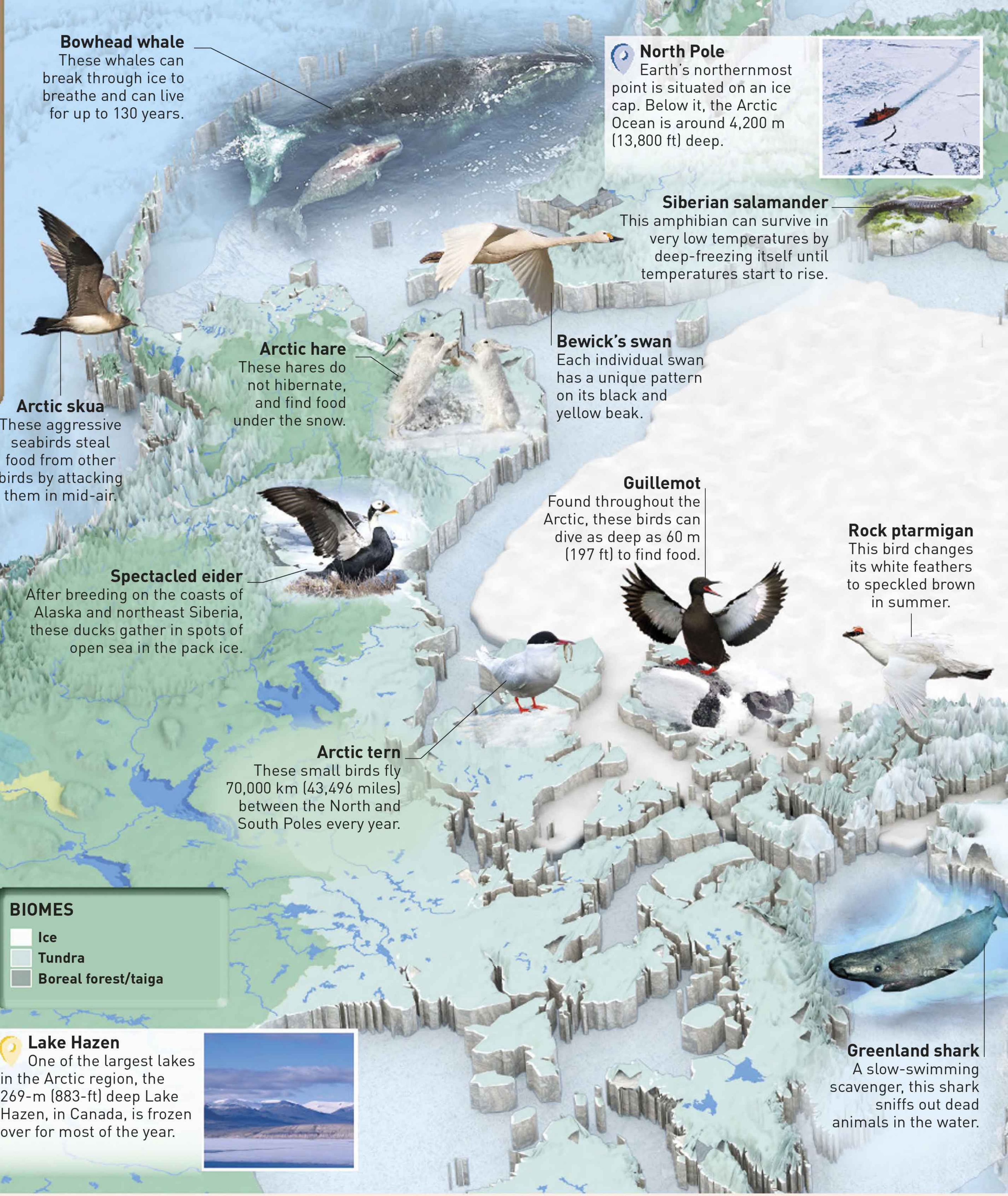
Mount Erebus
One of the world's most active volcanoes and, at 3,794 m (12,448 ft), the highest active volcano in Antarctica, Mount Erebus has a very rare, bubbling, lava lake.

Snow petrel
These birds nest on cliffs, but prefer to gather on pack ice.

KEY
Antarctica is a cold desert. Where it is not covered in ice, the barren ground is gravel or rock.

⬜ **Ice**
▨ **Tundra**

IT MELTED, WORLD SEA LEVELS WOULD RISE BY ABOUT 60 M (200 FT).



Bowhead whale
These whales can break through ice to breathe and can live for up to 130 years.

North Pole
Earth's northernmost point is situated on an ice cap. Below it, the Arctic Ocean is around 4,200 m (13,800 ft) deep.

Siberian salamander
This amphibian can survive in very low temperatures by deep-freezing itself until temperatures start to rise.

Arctic hare
These hares do not hibernate, and find food under the snow.

Bewick's swan
Each individual swan has a unique pattern on its black and yellow beak.

Arctic skua
These aggressive seabirds steal food from other birds by attacking them in mid-air.

Guillemot
Found throughout the Arctic, these birds can dive as deep as 60 m (197 ft) to find food.

Rock ptarmigan
This bird changes its white feathers to speckled brown in summer.

Spectacled eider
After breeding on the coasts of Alaska and northeast Siberia, these ducks gather in spots of open sea in the pack ice.

Arctic tern
These small birds fly 70,000 km (43,496 miles) between the North and South Poles every year.

BIOMES
□ Ice
▨ Tundra
■ Boreal forest/taiga

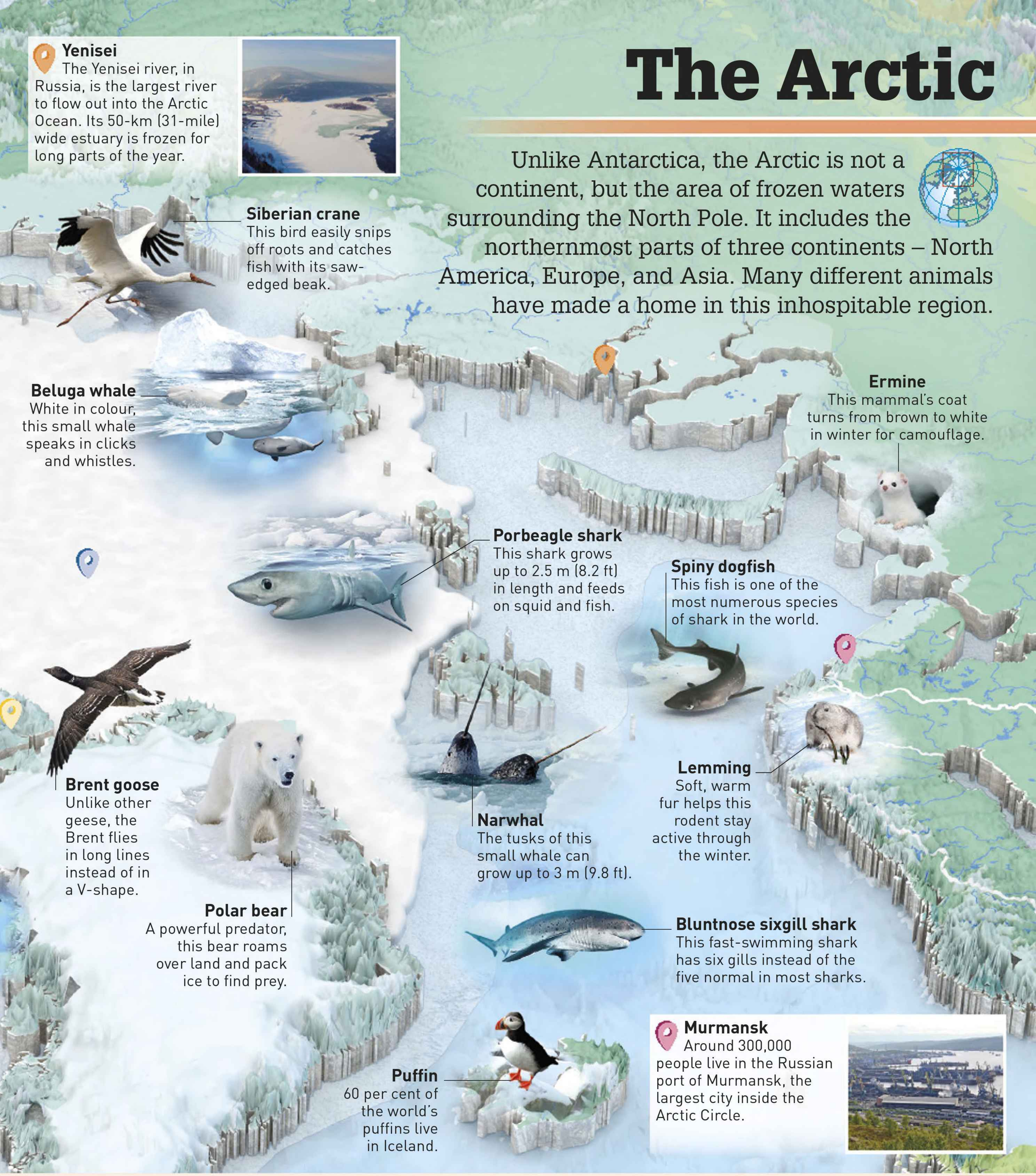
Lake Hazen
One of the largest lakes in the Arctic region, the 269-m (883-ft) deep Lake Hazen, in Canada, is frozen over for most of the year.

Greenland shark
A slow-swimming scavenger, this shark sniffs out dead animals in the water.

THE ARCTIC SEA ICE IS UP TO 4 M (13 FT) THICK; THE AREA

The Arctic

Unlike Antarctica, the Arctic is not a continent, but the area of frozen waters surrounding the North Pole. It includes the northernmost parts of three continents – North America, Europe, and Asia. Many different animals have made a home in this inhospitable region.



Yenisei
The Yenisei river, in Russia, is the largest river to flow out into the Arctic Ocean. Its 50-km (31-mile) wide estuary is frozen for long parts of the year.

Siberian crane
This bird easily snips off roots and catches fish with its saw-edged beak.

Beluga whale
White in colour, this small whale speaks in clicks and whistles.

Porbeagle shark
This shark grows up to 2.5 m (8.2 ft) in length and feeds on squid and fish.

Ermine
This mammal's coat turns from brown to white in winter for camouflage.

Spiny dogfish
This fish is one of the most numerous species of shark in the world.

Brent goose
Unlike other geese, the Brent flies in long lines instead of in a V-shape.

Narwhal
The tusks of this small whale can grow up to 3 m (9.8 ft).

Lemming
Soft, warm fur helps this rodent stay active through the winter.

Polar bear
A powerful predator, this bear roams over land and pack ice to find prey.

Bluntnose sixgill shark
This fast-swimming shark has six gills instead of the five normal in most sharks.

Puffin
60 per cent of the world's puffins live in Iceland.

Murmansk
Around 300,000 people live in the Russian port of Murmansk, the largest city inside the Arctic Circle.

IT COVERS CHANGES SIGNIFICANTLY FROM WINTER TO SUMMER.

THE OCEANS

Mighty seas
Oceans cover approximately 71 per cent of Earth's surface and contain 97 per cent of the water found on our planet.

https://sanet.st/blogs/polatebooks/

Pacific Ocean

The Pacific is by far the world's largest ocean. At its widest point (stretching from Colombia to Indonesia), it extends for 19,800 km (12,300 miles) – almost halfway around the world. The deepest trenches on Earth can be found here, together with massive volcanoes that rise up from the ocean's floor.

FAST FACTS

Total area:
155,557,000 sq km (60,060,893 sq miles)

Coastline:
135,663 km (84,297 miles)

Average depth:
3,970 m (13,025 ft)

Lowest point:
Challenger Deep, Mariana Trench – 10,924 m (35,840 ft)

Major access points:

- ① **Panama Canal**
- ② **Strait of Magellan**
- ③ **Tsugaru Strait**
- ④ **Tsushima**
- ⑤ **Torres Strait**

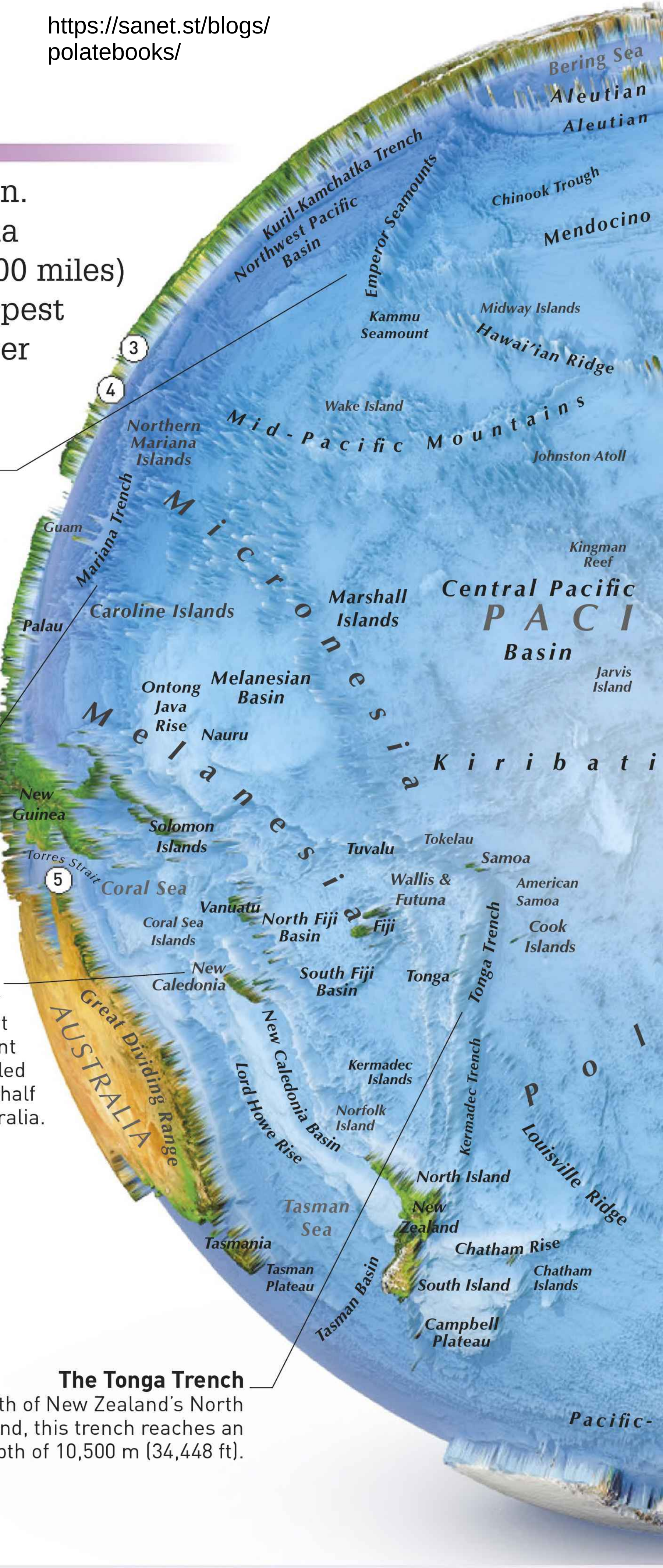
The Strait of Magellan, in southern Chile/Argentina, connects the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans.

The Emperor Seamounts
These underwater mountains extend northwest from Hawaii. Each mount is named for a Japanese emperor.

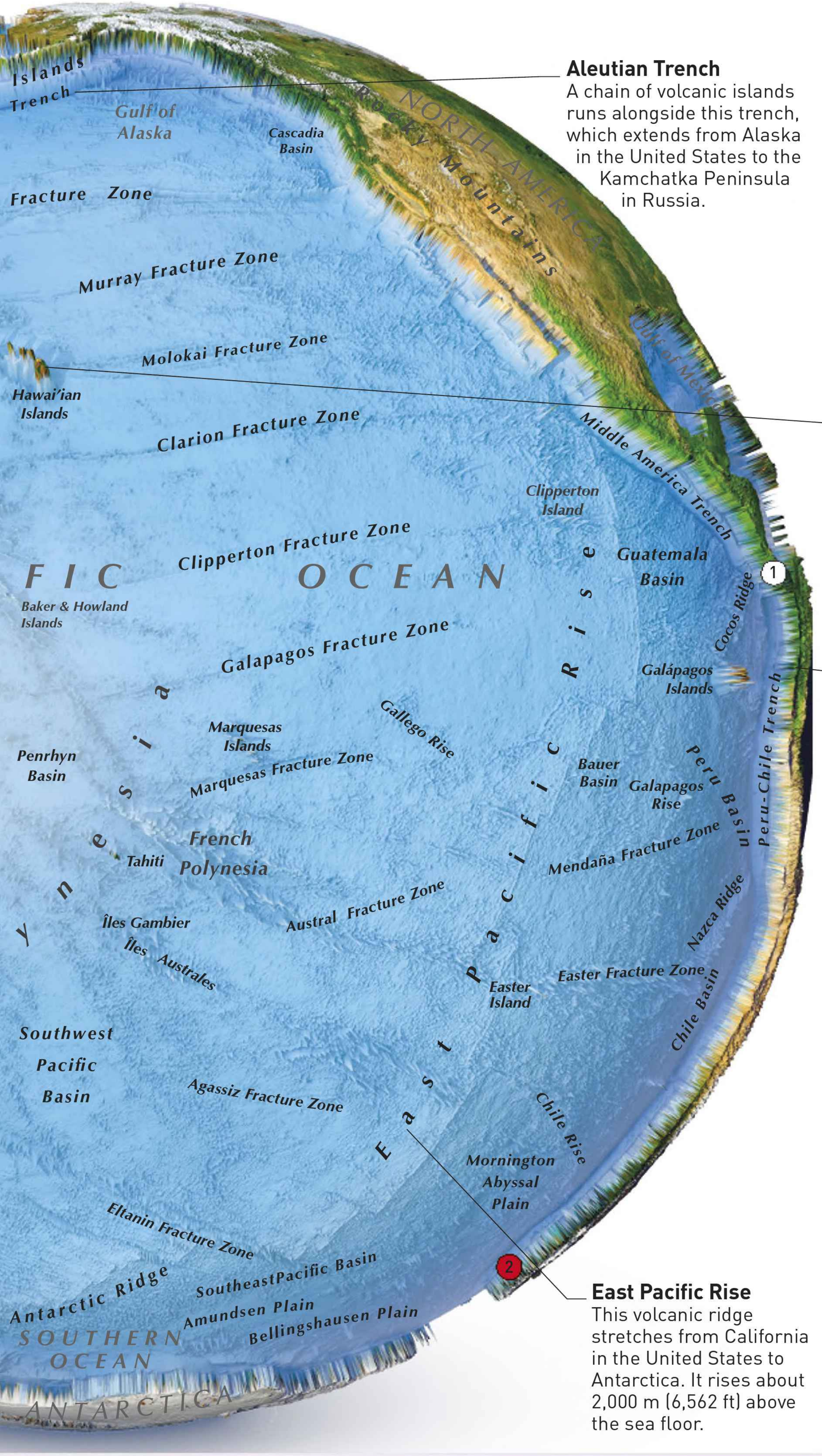
Mariana Trench
The lowest point on Earth, its deepest point lies almost 11 km (7 miles) beneath the ocean's surface.

New Caledonia
This island and New Zealand are all that remain of an ancient continent called Zealandia that was half the size of Australia.

The Tonga Trench
Lying north of New Zealand's North Island, this trench reaches an average depth of 10,500 m (34,448 ft).


Bering Sea
Aleutian
Aleutian
Kuril-Kamchatka Trench
Northwest Pacific Basin
Emperor Seamounts
Chinook Trough
Mendocino
Kammu Seamount
Midway Islands
Hawai'ian Ridge
③
④
Wake Island
Mid-Pacific Mountains
Northern Mariana Islands
Johnston Atoll
Micronesia
Guam
Mariana Trench
Kingman Reef
Palau
Caroline Islands
Marshall Islands
Central Pacific Basin
P A C I
Jarvis Island
Ontong Java Rise
Melanesian Basin
Melanesia
Nauru
Kiribati
New Guinea
Solomon Islands
Tuvalu
Tokelau
Samoa
Torres Strait
⑤
Coral Sea
Wallis & Futuna
American Samoa
Vanuatu
North Fiji Basin
Fiji
Coral Sea Islands
Cook Islands
New Caledonia
South Fiji Basin
Tonga
Tonga Trench
Great Dividing Range
AUSTRALIA
New Caledonia Basin
Lord Howe Rise
Kermadec Islands
Kermadec Trench
Norfolk Island
P o l
Louisville Ridge
North Island
New Zealand
Tasman Sea
Chatham Rise
Tasmania
Tasman Plateau
South Island
Chatham Islands
Tasman Basin
Campbell Plateau
Pacific-

The **Pacific Ocean** contains ***just over half*** of all the world's **seawater**.



Islands
Trench
Gulf of Alaska
Cascadia Basin
NORTH AMERICA
Rocky Mountains
Fracture Zone
Murray Fracture Zone
Molokai Fracture Zone
Gulf of Mexico
Hawai'ian Islands
Clarion Fracture Zone
Middle America Trench
Clipperton Island
Clipperton Fracture Zone
FIC OCEAN
Guatemala Basin
1
Baker & Howland Islands
Cocos Ridge
Galapagos Fracture Zone
Galápagos Islands
Peru-Chile Trench
Gallego Rise
Marquesas Islands
Penrhyn Basin
Marquesas Fracture Zone
Bauer Basin
Galapagos Rise
Peru Basin
French Polynesia
Tahiti
Mendaña Fracture Zone
ynesia
Îles Gambier
Austral Fracture Zone
Nazca Ridge
Îles Australes
Easter Fracture Zone
Easter Island
Chile Basin
East Pacific Rise
Southwest Pacific Basin
Agassiz Fracture Zone
Chile Rise
Mornington Abyssal Plain
Eltanin Fracture Zone
2
SoutheastPacific Basin
Antarctic Ridge
Amundsen Plain
Bellingshausen Plain
SOUTHERN OCEAN
ANTARCTICA

Aleutian Trench
A chain of volcanic islands runs alongside this trench, which extends from Alaska in the United States to the Kamchatka Peninsula in Russia.

Mauna Loa
Measuring 9,000 m (29,500 ft) in height from the ocean floor to its summit, the world's largest active volcano looms over Hawaii.

Peru-Chile Trench
This 5,900-km (3,660-mile) long trench is the longest in the Pacific Ocean. It follows the line of the Andes Mountains.

East Pacific Rise
This volcanic ridge stretches from California in the United States to Antarctica. It rises about 2,000 m (6,562 ft) above the sea floor.

Ring of Fire

The Pacific Ocean is surrounded by a band of volcanoes called the Ring of Fire. This ring extends from New Zealand to South America and contains more than three-quarters of the world's volcanoes, including Mount Fuji, in Japan, and Mount St Helens in the United States.

Atlantic Ocean

The Atlantic is the world's second-largest ocean. It stretches from the Arctic to the Antarctic, separating Europe and Africa from the Americas. The Atlantic Ocean covers about one-fifth of the planet's surface, is home to some of the world's richest fishing waters, and contains a plentiful supply of gas and oil.

FAST FACTS

Total area:
76,762,000 sq km (29,637,974 sq miles)

Coastline:
111,866 km (69,510 miles)

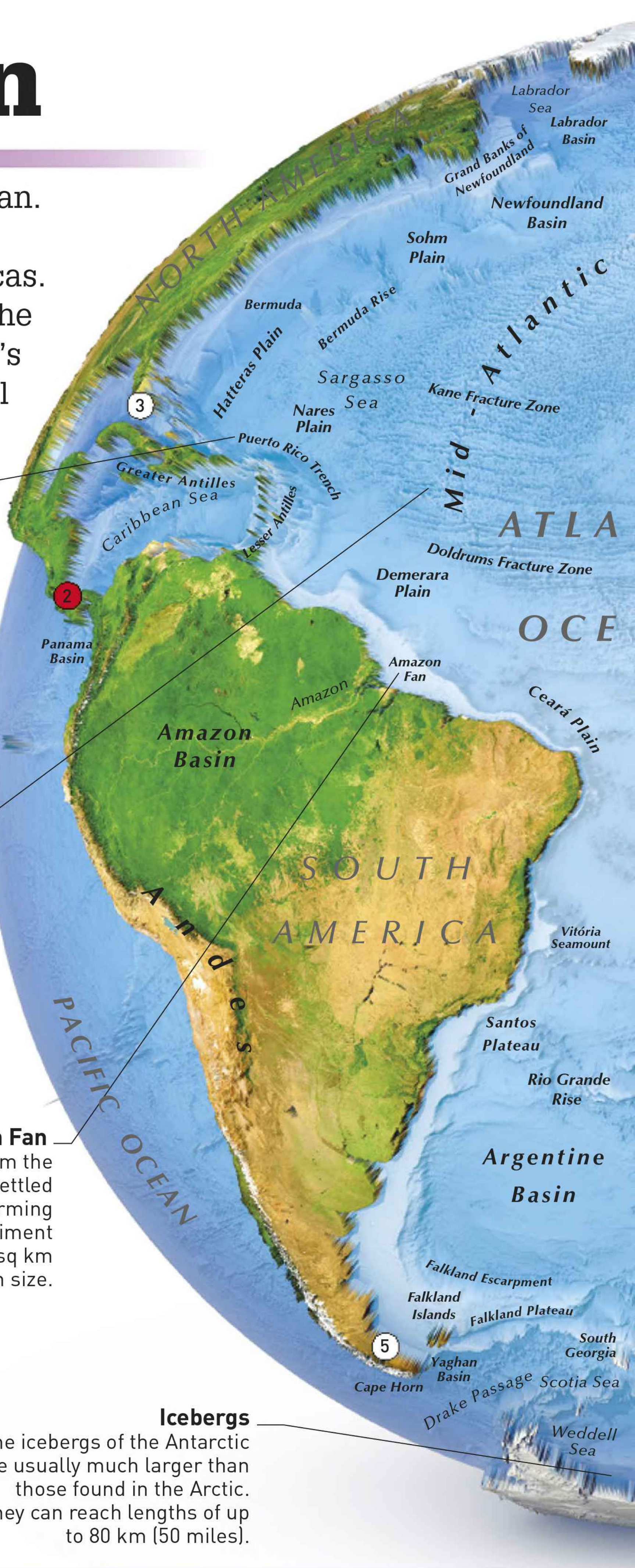
Average depth:
3,646 m (11,962 ft)

Lowest point:
Milwaukee Deep, Puerto Rico Trench – 8,605 m (28,232 ft)

Major access points:

- ① **English Channel**
- ② **Panama Canal**
- ③ **Straits of Florida**
- ④ **Strait of Gibraltar**
- ⑤ **Strait of Magellan**

The Panama Canal, one of the world's busiest waterways, connects the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans.

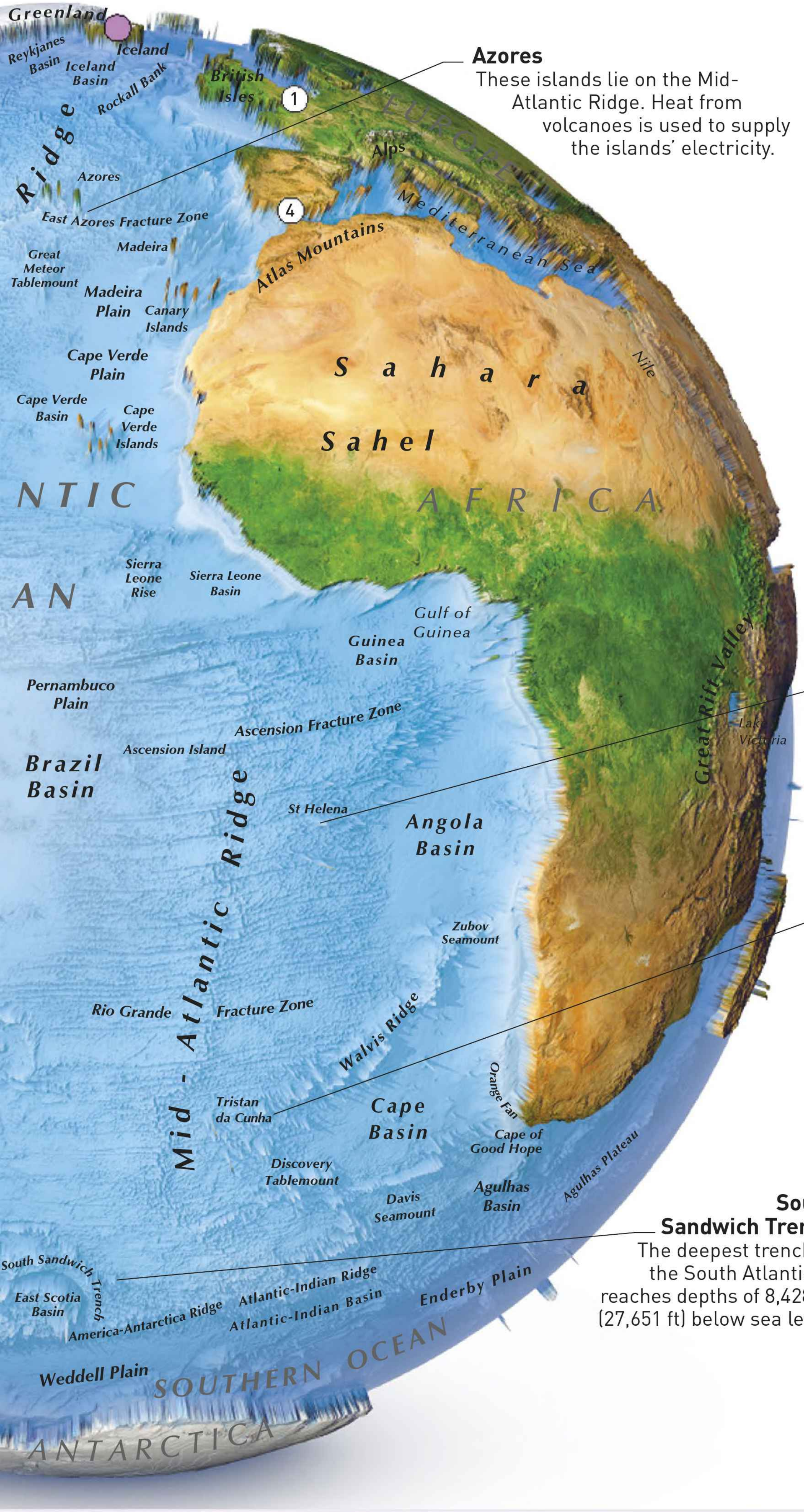

Labrador Sea
Labrador Basin
Grand Banks of Newfoundland
NORTH AMERICA
Newfoundland Basin
Sohm Plain
Bermuda
Bermuda Rise
Mid-Atlantic
Hatteras Plain
Sargasso Sea
Kane Fracture Zone
Nares Plain
3
Puerto Rico Trench
Greater Antilles
Caribbean Sea
Lesser Antilles
ATLA
Doldrums Fracture Zone
Demerara Plain
2
OCE
Panama Basin
Amazon Fan
Ceará Plain
Amazon
Amazon Basin
SOUTH AMERICA
Andes
Vitória Seamount
PACIFIC OCEAN
Santos Plateau
Rio Grande Rise
Argentine Basin
Falkland Escarpment
Falkland Islands
Falkland Plateau
5
South Georgia
Yaghan Basin
Cape Horn
Drake Passage
Scotia Sea
Weddell Sea

Puerto Rico Trench
This trench stretches for 800 km (497 miles) and contains the deepest point in the Atlantic Ocean.

Mid-Atlantic Ridge
This underwater mountain range runs for about 16,000 km (10,000 miles) along the ocean floor.

Amazon Fan
Mud and clay from the Amazon River have settled on the ocean floor, forming a mound of sediment 1.3 million sq km (502,000 sq miles) in size.

Icebergs
The icebergs of the Antarctic are usually much larger than those found in the Arctic. They can reach lengths of up to 80 km (50 miles).


Greenland
Reykjanes Basin
Iceland
Iceland Basin
Rockall Bank
British Isles
1
Ridge
EUROPE
Alps
Azores
4
East Azores Fracture Zone
Mediterranean Sea
Atlas Mountains
Madeira
Great Meteor Tablemount
Madeira Plain
Canary Islands
Cape Verde Plain
Sahara
Nile
Cape Verde Basin
Cape Verde Islands
Sahel
NTIC
AFRICA
AN
Sierra Leone Rise
Sierra Leone Basin
Gulf of Guinea
Guinea Basin
Pernambuco Plain
Great Rift Valley
Lake Victoria
Ascension Fracture Zone
Ascension Island
Brazil Basin
St Helena
Angola Basin
Mid-Atlantic Ridge
Zubov Seamount
Rio Grande Fracture Zone
Walvis Ridge
Orange Fan
Tristan da Cunha
Cape Basin
Cape of Good Hope
Agulhas Plateau
Discovery Tablemount
Davis Seamount
Agulhas Basin
South Sandwich Trench
East Scotia Basin
America-Antarctica Ridge
Atlantic-Indian Ridge
Atlantic-Indian Basin
Enderby Plain
Weddell Plain
SOUTHERN OCEAN
ANTARCTICA

Azores
These islands lie on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. Heat from volcanoes is used to supply the islands' electricity.

Iceland

With an area of 103,000 sq km (39,769 sq miles), Iceland is the largest of the islands that lie on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. It is home to more than 100 volcanoes, many of which are still active, as well as to many geysers and hot springs.

Saint Helena
This tiny volcanic island has an area of just 122 sq km (47 sq miles). It has been under British control since 1676.

Tristan da Cunha
Lying 2,000 km (1,250 miles) from the nearest inhabited land (Saint Helena), this is the most isolated group of inhabited islands in the world. Just over 250 people live there.

South Sandwich Trench
The deepest trench in the South Atlantic, it reaches depths of 8,428 m (27,651 ft) below sea level.

The ***Atlantic*** is **widening** by up to **10 cm** (3.9 in) every year as its ***continental plates*** move **slowly** apart.

Indian Ocean

The Indian Ocean is the smallest of the world's major oceans, but it provides important sea routes connecting the Middle East, Africa, and East Asia, with Europe and the Americas. As with the Pacific Ocean, its warm waters are dotted with coral atolls and islands. Around one-fifth of the world's population live on its shores.

FAST FACTS

Total area:
68,556,000 sq km
(26,469,620 sq miles)

Coastline:
66,526 km (41,337 miles)

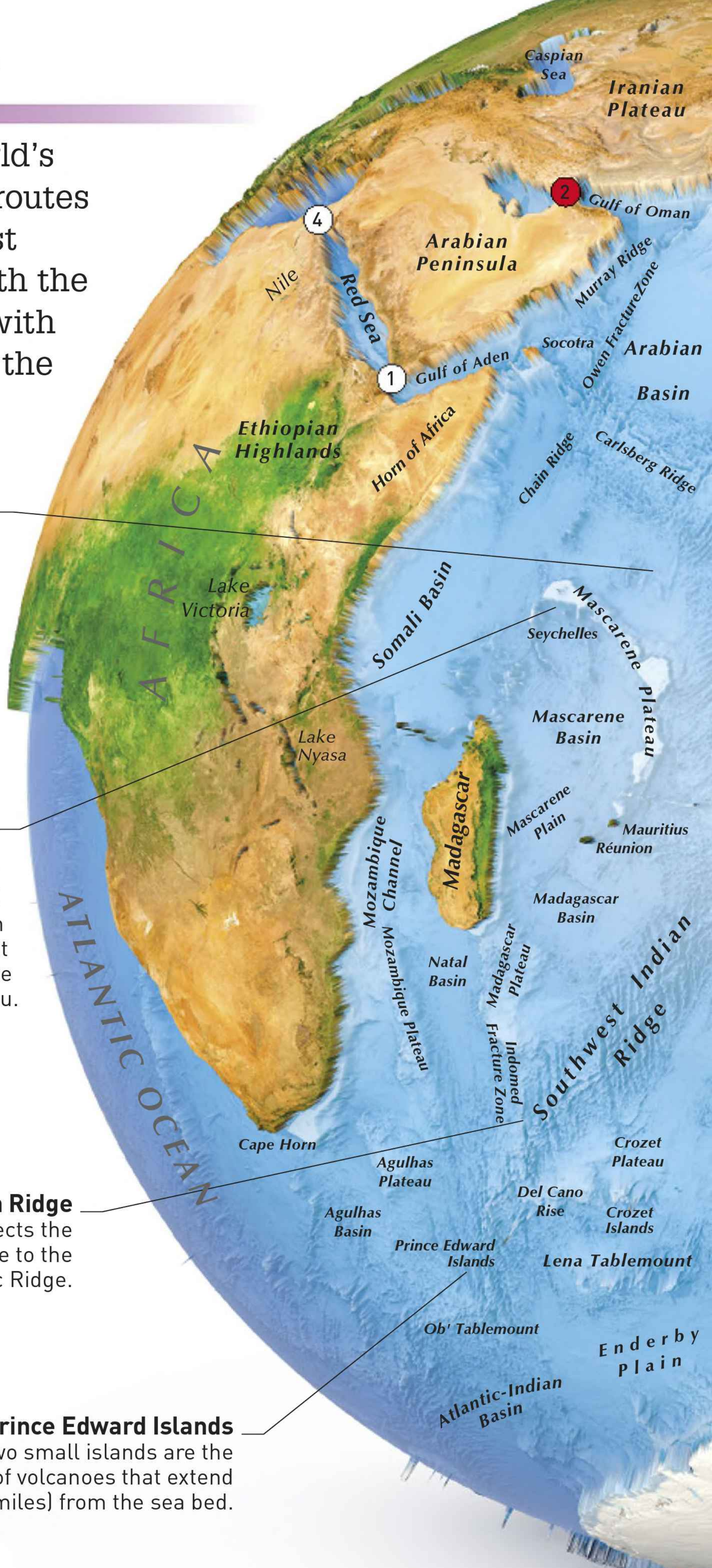
Average depth:
3,741 m (12,274 ft)

Lowest point:
Diamantina Deep, Java Trench – 7,258 m (23,812 ft)

Major access points:

- ① **Bab El Mandeb**
- ② **Strait of Hormuz**
- ③ **Strait of Malacca**
- ④ **Suez Canal**
- ⑤ **Torres Strait**

Satellite view of the Strait of Hormuz, with the United Arab Emirates on the left of the image.



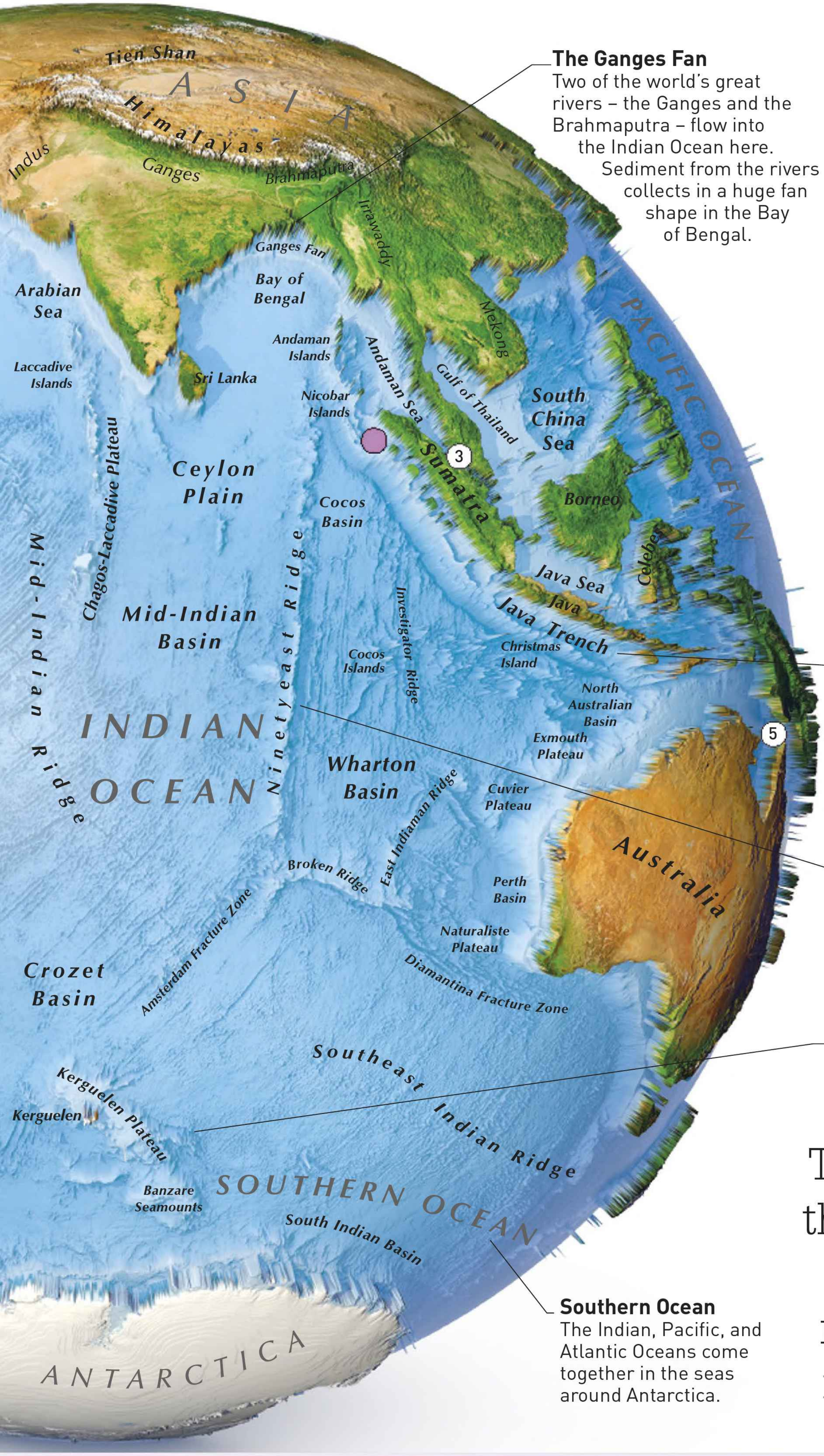
Mid-Indian Ridge
Heading southeast from the Gulf of Aden, this ridge meets the Southwest Indian Ridge mid-ocean.

Seychelles
This group of 115 islands lies 1,819 km (1,130 miles) to the north of Madagascar. It forms part of the Mascarene Plateau.

Southwest Indian Ridge
This ridge connects the Mid-Indian Ridge to the Mid-Atlantic Ridge.

Prince Edward Islands
These two small islands are the peaks of volcanoes that extend 5 km (3 miles) from the sea bed.

Caspian Sea
Iranian Plateau
②
Gulf of Oman
④
Arabian Peninsula
Nile
Red Sea
Murray Ridge
Owen Fracture Zone
Socotra
Arabian Basin
①
Gulf of Aden
Ethiopian Highlands
Horn of Africa
Chain Ridge
Carlsberg Ridge
AFRICA
Lake Victoria
Somali Basin
Seychelles
Mascarene Plateau
Mascarene Basin
Lake Nyasa
Madagascar
Mascarene Plain
Mauritius
Réunion
Mozambique Channel
Madagascar Basin
Natal Basin
Mozambique Plateau
Madagascar Plateau
Indomed Fracture Zone
Southwest Indian Ridge
ATLANTIC OCEAN
Cape Horn
Agulhas Plateau
Crozet Plateau
Agulhas Basin
Del Cano Rise
Crozet Islands
Prince Edward Islands
Lena Tablemount
Ob' Tablemount
Enderby Plain
Atlantic-Indian Basin


Tien Shan
ASIA
Himalayas
Indus
Ganges
Brahmaputra
Irrawaddy
Ganges Fan
Arabian Sea
Bay of Bengal
Mekong
Andaman Islands
Laccadive Islands
Sri Lanka
Nicobar Islands
Andaman Sea
Gulf of Thailand
South China Sea
PACIFIC OCEAN
3
Sumatra
Chagos-Laccadive Plateau
Ceylon Plain
Cocos Basin
Borneo
Mid-Indian Ridge
Ninetyeast Ridge
Celebes
Java Sea
Java
Mid-Indian Basin
Investigator Ridge
Java Trench
Christmas Island
Cocos Islands
North Australian Basin
INDIAN OCEAN
5
Exmouth Plateau
Wharton Basin
East Indiaman Ridge
Cuvier Plateau
Australia
Broken Ridge
Perth Basin
Amsterdam Fracture Zone
Naturaliste Plateau
Crozet Basin
Diamantina Fracture Zone
Southeast Indian Ridge
Kerguelen Plateau
Kerguelen
Banzare Seamounts
SOUTHERN OCEAN
South Indian Basin
ANTARCTICA

The Ganges Fan
Two of the world's great rivers – the Ganges and the Brahmaputra – flow into the Indian Ocean here. Sediment from the rivers collects in a huge fan shape in the Bay of Bengal.

Java Trench
The Indian Ocean's only major trench runs for 2,570 km (1,600 miles) south of the Indonesian islands of Java and Sumatra.

Ninetyeast Ridge
This ridge is named for the line of longitude it follows. At 5,000 km (3,100 miles), it is the world's longest sea ridge, and also its straightest.

Kerguelen Plateau
Only a few uninhabited islands remain of what was once a small continent.

Southern Ocean
The Indian, Pacific, and Atlantic Oceans come together in the seas around Antarctica.

Indian Ocean tsunami

On 26 December 2004, an earthquake (the third largest ever recorded) off the coast of Sumatra, Indonesia, triggered a tsunami (a huge wave that destroys everything in its path). It had catastrophic consequences for many countries bordering the Indian Ocean, when waves of up to 30 m (100 ft) high left as many as 230,000 people dead.

The ***Indian Ocean*** is the world's **warmest**. *Water temperatures* reach ***28°C (82.4°F)*** in its ***eastern*** parts.

REFERENCE

Night and day
While Asia, the Middle East, and East Africa are bathed in sunlight, in Europe and West Africa, the lights continue to shine in the dark hours before dawn.

Countries of the world

This section includes 195 of the world's countries. With the exception of Taiwan and the Vatican City, all of them are member states of the United Nations.

* denotes official language

NORTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA

CANADA
North America
Capital: Ottawa
Population: 35.1 million / 4 people per sq km (9 people per sq mile)
Total area: 9,984,670 sq km (3,855,103 sq miles)
Languages: English*, French*, Punjabi, Italian, German, Cantonese, Inuktitut
Currency: Canadian dollar = 100 cents

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
North America
Capital: Washington, DC
Population: 324 million / 33 people per sq km (85 people per sq mile)
Total area: 9,833,517 sq km (3,796,742 sq miles)
Languages: English, Spanish
Currency: US dollar = 100 cents

MEXICO
North America
Capital: Mexico City
Population: 123.2 million / 63 people per sq km (162 people per sq mile)
Total area: 1,964,375 sq km (758,449 sq miles)
Languages: Spanish*, Nahuatl, Mayan
Currency: Mexican peso = 100 centavos

BELIZE
Central America
Capital: Belmopan
Population: 347,370 / 15 people per sq km (39 people per sq mile)
Total area: 22,966 sq km (8,867 sq miles)
Languages: English*, English Creole, Spanish, Mayan, Garifuna (Carib)
Currency: Belizean dollar = 100 cents

COSTA RICA
Central America
Capital: San José
Population: 4.8 million / 94 people per sq km (243 people per sq mile)
Total area: 51,100 sq km (19,730 sq miles)
Languages: Spanish*, English
Currency: Costa Rican colón = 100 céntimos

EL SALVADOR
Central America
Capital: San Salvador
Population: 6.1 million / 290 people per sq km (750 people per sq mile)
Total area: 21,041 sq km (8,124 sq miles)
Languages: Spanish*, Nawat
Currency: US dollar = 100 cents

GUATEMALA
Central America
Capital: Guatemala City
Population: 15.2 million / 140 people per sq km (362 people per sq mile)
Total area: 108,889 sq km (42,042 sq miles)
Languages: Spanish*, indigenous languages
Currency: Quetzal = 100 centavos

HONDURAS
Central America
Capital: Tegucigalpa
Population: 8.9 million / 79 people per sq km (206 people per sq mile)
Total area: 112,090 sq km (43,278 sq miles)
Languages: Spanish*, Indigenous languages
Currency: Lempira = 100 centavos

NICARAGUA
Central America
Capital: Managua
Population: 6 million / 46 people per sq km (119 people per sq mile)
Total area: 130,370 sq km (50,336 sq miles)
Languages: Spanish*, Miskito
Currency: Córdoba = 100 centavos

PANAMA
Central America
Capital: Panama City
Population: 3.7 million / 49 people per sq km (127 people per sq mile)
Total area: 75,420 sq km (29,120 sq miles)
Languages: Spanish*, English Creole, Indigenous languages including Ngabere
Currency: Balboa = 100 centesimos

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
West Indies
Capital: St John's
Population: 92,436 / 209 people per sq km (540 people per sq mile)
Total area: 443 sq km (171 sq miles)
Languages: English*, Antiguan Creole
Currency: Eastern Caribbean dollar = 100 cents

THE BAHAMAS
West Indies
Capital: Nassau
Population: 324,600 / 23 people per sq km (61 people per sq mile)
Total area: 13,880 sq km (5,359 sq miles)
Languages: English*, English Creole, French Creole
Currency: Bahamian dollar = 100 cents

BARBADOS
West Indies
Capital: Bridgetown
Population: 290,600 / 676 people per sq km (1,750 people per sq mile)
Total area: 430 sq km (166 sq miles)
Languages: English*, Bajan (Barbadian English)
Currency: Barbados dollar = 100 cents

CUBA
West Indies
Capital: Havana
Population: 11 million / 99 people per sq km (256 people per sq mile)
Total area: 110,860 sq km (42,803 sq miles)
Languages: Spanish*
Currency: Cuban peso = 100 centavos

DOMINICA
West Indies
Capital: Roseau
Population: 73,607 / 98 people per sq km (254 people per sq mile)
Total area: 751 sq km (290 sq miles)
Languages: English*, French Creole
Currency: East Caribbean dollar = 100 cents

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
West Indies
Capital: Santo Domingo
Population: 10.5 million / 216 people per sq km (559 people per sq mile)
Total area: 48,670 sq km (18,792 sq miles)
Languages: Spanish*
Currency: Dominican Republic peso = 100 centavos

GRENADA
West Indies
Capital: St George's
Population: 111,000 / 323 people per sq km (836 people per sq mile)
Total area: 344 sq km (133 sq miles)
Languages: English*, French Patois
Currency: East Caribbean dollar = 100 cents

HAITI
West Indies
Capital: Port-au-Prince
Population: 10.5 million / 378 people per sq km (979 people per sq mile)
Total area: 27,750 sq km (10,714 sq miles)
Languages: French*, French Creole*
Currency: Gourde = 100 centimes

JAMAICA
West Indies
Capital: Kingston
Population: 3 million / 237 people per sq km (613 people per sq mile)
Total area: 10,991 sq km (4,243 sq miles)
Languages: English*, English Creole
Currency: Jamaican dollar = 100 cents

SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS
West Indies
Capital: Basseterre
Population: 52,329 / 201 people per sq km (519 people per sq mile)
Total area: 261 sq km (101 sq miles)
Language: English*
Currency: Eastern Caribbean dollar = 100 cents

SAINT LUCIA
West Indies
Capital: Castries
Population: 164,464 / 267 people per sq km (692 people per sq mile)
Total area: 616 sq km (238 sq miles)
Languages: English*, French Creole
Currency: Eastern Caribbean dollar = 100 cents

SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
West Indies
Capital: Kingstown
Population: 102,350 / 263 people per sq km (682 people per sq mile)
Total area: 389 sq km (150 sq miles)
Languages: English*, English Creole
Currency: Eastern Caribbean dollar = 100 cents

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
West Indies
Capital: Port-of-Spain
Population: 1.2 million / 234 people per sq km (606 people per sq mile)
Total area: 5,128 sq km (1,980 sq miles)
Languages: English*, Caribbean Hindustani, French, Spanish
Currency: Trinidad and Tobago dollar = 100 cents

SOUTH AMERICA

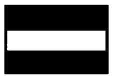
COLOMBIA
South America
Capital: Bogotá
Population: 46.7 million / 41 people per sq km (106 people per sq mile)
Total area: 1,138,910 sq km (439,736 sq miles)
Languages: Spanish*, Amerindian languages, English Creole
Currency: Colombian peso = 100 centavos

GUYANA
South America
Capital: Georgetown
Population: 735,900 / 3 people per sq km (9 people per sq mile)
Total area: 214,969 sq km (83,000 sq miles)
Languages: English*, English Creole, Indigenous languages, Indian languages
Currency: Guyana dollar = 100 cents

SURINAME
South America
Capital: Paramaribo
Population: 585,800 / 4 people per sq km (9 people per sq mile)
Total area: 163,820 sq km (63,251 sq miles)
Languages: Dutch*, English, Sranan Tongo
Currency: Suriname dollar = 100 cents

VENEZUELA
South America
Capital: Caracas
Population: 30.9 million / 34 people per sq km (88 people per sq mile)
Total area: 912,050 sq km (352,143 sq miles)
Languages: Spanish*, numerous indigenous languages
Currency: Bolivar fuerte = 100 centimos

BOLIVIA



South America

Capital: Sucre (judicial); La Paz (administrative)

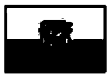
Population: 10.8 million / 10 people per sq km (26 people per sq mile)

Total area: 1,098,581 sq km (424,165 sq miles)

Languages: Spanish*, Quechua*, Aymara*

Currency: Boliviano = 100 centavos

ECUADOR



South America

Capital: Quito

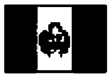
Population: 15.9 million / 56 people per sq km (145 people per sq mile)

Total area: 283,561 sq km (109,484 sq miles)

Languages: Spanish*, Quechua*, other indigenous languages

Currency: US dollar = 100 cents

PERU



South America

Capital: Lima

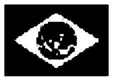
Population: 30.7 million / 24 people per sq km (62 people per sq mile)

Total area: 1,285,216 sq km (496,225 sq miles)

Languages: Spanish*, Quechua*, Aymará*, other indigenous languages

Currency: New sol = 100 centimos

BRAZIL



South America

Capital: Brasília

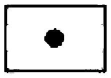
Population: 204.3 million / 24 people per sq km (62 people per sq mile)

Total area: 8,515,770 sq km (3,287,957 sq miles)

Languages: Portuguese*, German, Italian, Spanish, Polish, Japanese

Currency: Real = 100 centavos

ARGENTINA



South America

Capital: Buenos Aires

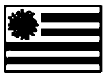
Population: 43.4 million / 16 people per sq km (40 people per sq mile)

Total area: 2,780,400 sq km (1,073,518 sq miles)

Languages: Spanish*, Italian, English, German, French, Indigenous languages

Currency: Argentine Peso = 100 centavos

URUGUAY



South America

Capital: Montevideo

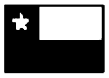
Population: 3.4 million / 27 people per sq km (70 people per sq mile)

Total area: 176,215 sq km (68,036 sq miles)

Languages: Spanish*, Portuñol

Currency: Uruguayan peso = 100 centesimos

CHILE



South America

Capital: Santiago

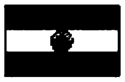
Population: 17.5 million / 23 people per sq km (60 people per sq mile)

Total area: 756,102 sq km (291,932 sq miles)

Languages: Spanish*, Indigenous languages

Currency: Chilean peso = 100 centavos

PARAGUAY



South America

Capital: Asunción

Population: 6.9 million / 17 people per sq km (44 people per sq mile)

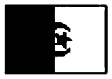
Total area: 406,752 sq km (157,048 sq miles)

Languages: Spanish*, Guaraní*

Currency: Guaraní = 100 centimos

AFRICA

ALGERIA



North Africa

Capital: Algiers

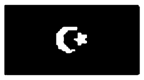
Population: 39.5 million / 17 people per sq km (43 people per sq mile)

Total area: 2,381,740 sq km (919,595 sq miles)

Languages: Arabic*, Tamazight*, French

Currency: Algerian dinar = 100 santeems

LIBYA



North Africa

Capital: Tripoli

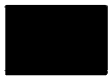
Population: 6.5 million / 4 people per sq km (10 people per sq mile)

Total area: 1,759,540 sq km (679,362 sq miles)

Languages: Arabic*, Berber languages

Currency: Libyan dinar = 1,000 dirhams

MOROCCO



North Africa

Capital: Rabat

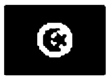
Population: 33.7 million / 76 people per sq km (196 people per sq mile)

Total area: 446,550 sq km (172,414 sq miles)

Languages: Arabic*, Tamazight*, French

Currency: Moroccan dirham = 100 santim

TUNISIA



North Africa

Capital: Tunis

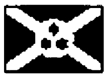
Population: 11.1 million / 68 people per sq km (176 people per sq mile)

Total area: 163,610 sq km (63,170 sq miles)

Languages: Arabic*, French, Berber

Currency: Tunisian dinar = 1,000 millimes

BURUNDI



Central Africa

Capital: Bujumbura

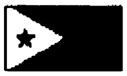
Population: 10.7 million / 384 people per sq km (996 people per sq mile)

Total area: 27,830 sq km (10,745 sq miles)

Languages: Kirundi*, French*, Kiswahili

Currency: Burundi franc = 100 centimes

DJIBOUTI



East Africa

Capital: Djibouti

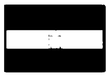
Population: 828,324 / 36 people per sq km (92 people per sq mile)

Total area: 23,200 sq km (8,958 sq miles)

Languages: French*, Arabic*, Somali, Afar

Currency: Djibouti franc = 100 centimes

EGYPT



North Africa

Capital: Cairo

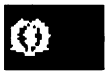
Population: 88.5 million / 88 people per sq km (229 people per sq mile)

Total area: 1,001,450 sq km (386,660 sq miles)

Languages: Arabic*, French, English

Currency: Egyptian pound = 100 piastres

ERITREA



East Africa

Capital: Asmara

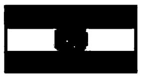
Population: 5.9 million / 50 people per sq km (130 people per sq mile)

Total area: 117,600 sq km (45,406 sq miles)

Languages: Tigrinya*, Arabic*, English*, Tigre, Afar, Bilen, Kunama, Nara

Currency: Nafka = 100 cents

ETHIOPIA



East Africa

Capital: Addis Ababa

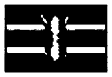
Population: 102.3 million / 91 people per sq km (235 people per sq mile)

Total area: 1,104,300 sq km (426,373 sq miles)

Languages: Amharic*, Oromo, Tigrinya

Currency: Ethiopian birr = 100 santim

KENYA



East Africa

Capital: Nairobi

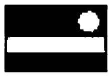
Population: 45.5 million / 80 people per sq km (208 people per sq mile)

Total area: 580,367 sq km (224,081 sq miles)

Languages: Kiswahili*, English*

Currency: Kenya shilling = 100 cents

RWANDA



Central Africa

Capital: Kigali

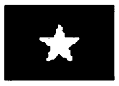
Population: 12.9 million / 490 people per sq km (1,269 people per sq mile)

Total area: 26,338 sq km (10,169 sq miles)

Languages: French*, Kinyarwanda*, English

Currency: Rwandan franc = 100 centimes

SOMALIA



East Africa

Capital: Mogadishu

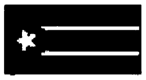
Population: 10.8 million / 17 people per sq km (44 people per sq mile)

Total area: 637,657 sq km (246,199 sq miles)

Languages: Somali*, Arabic*, English, Italian

Currency: Somali shilling = 100 cents

SOUTH SUDAN



East Africa

Capital: Juba

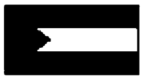
Population: 12.5 million / 19 people per sq km (50 people per sq mile)

Total area: 644,329 sq km (248,777 sq miles)

Languages: English*, Arabic, Dinka, Nuer

Currency: South Sudanese pound = 100 plastres

SUDAN



East Africa

Capital: Khartoum

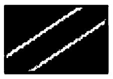
Population: 36.7 million / 20 people per sq km (51 people per sq mile)

Total area: 1,861,484 sq km (718,723 sq miles)

Languages: Arabic*, English*, Nubian, Fur

Currency: Sudanese pound = 100 piastres

TANZANIA



East Africa

Capital: Dodoma

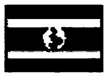
Population: 52.5 million / 55 people per sq km (144 people per sq mile)

Total area: 947,300 sq km (365,755 sq miles)

Languages: English*, Swahili*, Sukuma, Chagga, Nyamwezi, Hehe, Makonde

Currency: Tanzanian shilling = 100 cents

UGANDA



East Africa

Capital: Kampala

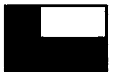
Population: 38.3 million / 159 people per sq km (412 people per sq mile)

Total area: 241,038 sq km (93,065 sq miles)

Languages: English*, Luganda

Currency: Uganda shilling = 100 cents

BENIN



West Africa

Capital: Porto-Novo

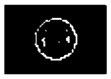
Population: 10.4 million / 92 people per sq km (239 people per sq mile)

Total area: 112,622 sq km (43,483 sq miles)

Languages: French*, Fon, Bariba, Yoruba, Adja, Houeda, Somba

Currency: West African CFA franc = 100 centimes

BURKINA FASO



West Africa

Capital: Ouagadougou

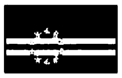
Population: 18.9 million / 69 people per sq km (179 people per sq mile)

Total area: 274,200 sq km (105,869 sq miles)

Languages: French*, various languages belonging to the Sudanic family

Currency: West African CFA franc = 100 centimes

CAPE VERDE



Atlantic Ocean

Capital: Praia

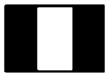
Population: 545,993 / 135 people per sq km (351 people per sq mile)

Total area: 4,033 sq km (1,557 sq miles)

Languages: Portuguese*, Portuguese Creole

Currency: Cape Verde escudo = 100 centavos

IVORY COAST



West Africa

Capital: Yamoussoukro

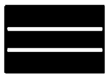
Population: 23.7 million / 74 people per sq km (190 people per sq mile)

Total area: 322,463 sq km (124,504 sq miles)

Languages: French*, Dioula

Currency: West African CFA franc = 100 centimes

GAMBIA



West Africa

Capital: Banjul

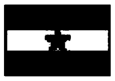
Population: 2 million / 177 people per sq km (458 people per sq mile)

Total area: 11,300 sq km (4,363 sq miles)

Languages: English*, Mandinka, Fula, Wolof

Currency: Dalasi = 100 butut

GHANA



West Africa

Capital: Accra

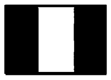
Population: 26.9 million / 113 people per sq km (292 people per sq mile)

Total area: 238,533 sq km (92,098 sq miles)

Languages: English*, Asante, Ewe, Fante, Boron

Currency: Cedi = 100 pesewas

GUINEA



West Africa

Capital: Conakry

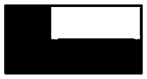
Population: 12.1 million / 49 people per sq km (128 people per sq mile)

Total area: 245,857 sq km (94,925 sq miles)

Languages: French*, Fulani, Malinke, Soussou

Currency: Guinea franc = 100 centimes

GUINEA BISSAU



West Africa

Capital: Bissau

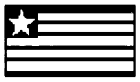
Population: 1.8 million / 49 people per sq km (124 people per sq mile)

Total area: 36,125 sq km (13,948 sq miles)

Languages: Portuguese*, West African Crioulo

Currency: West African CFA franc = 100 centimes

LIBERIA



West Africa

Capital: Monrovia

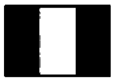
Population: 4.3 million / 39 people per sq km (101 people per sq mile)

Total area: 111,370 sq km (43,000 sq miles)

Languages: English*

Currency: Liberian dollar = 100 cents

MALI



West Africa

Capital: Bamako

Population: 17.5 million / 14 people per sq km (37 people per sq mile)

Total area: 1,240,000 sq km (478,764 sq miles)

Languages: French*, Bambara, Peul, Dogon

Currency: West African CFA franc = 100 centimes

MAURITANIA
West Africa

Capital: Nouakchott

Population: 3.7 million / 4 people per sq km (9 people per sq mile)

Total area: 1,030,700 sq km (397,953 sq miles)

Languages: Arabic*, Hassaniyah Arabic, Pulaar, Soninke

Currency: Ouguiya = 5 khoums

NIGER
West Africa

Capital: Niamey

Population: 18.6 million 5 people per sq km / (38 people per sq mile)

Total area: 1,267,000 sq km (489,189 sq miles)

Languages: French*, Hausa, Djerma

Currency: West African CFA franc = 100 centimes

NIGERIA
West Africa

Capital: Abuja

Population: 186 million / 201 people per sq km (522 people per sq mile)

Total area: 923,768 sq km (356,667 sq miles)

Languages: English*, Hausa, Yoruba, Ibo

Currency: Naira = 100 kobo

SENEGAL
West Africa

Capital: Dakar

Population: 14.3 million / 73 people per sq km (188 people per sq mile)

Total area: 196,722 sq km (75,955 sq miles)

Languages: French*, Wolof, Pulaar

Currency: West African CFA franc = 100 centimes

SIERRA LEONE
West Africa

Capital: Freetown

Population: 6 million / 84 people per sq km (217 people per sq mile)

Total area: 71,740 sq km (27,669 sq miles)

Languages: English*, Mende, Temne, Krio

Currency: Leone = 100 cents

TOGO
Western Africa

Capital: Lomé

Population: 7.8 million / 137 people per sq km (356 people per sq mile)

Total area: 56,785 sq km (21,925 sq miles)

Languages: French*, Ewe, Mina, Kabye

Currency: West African CFA franc = 100 centimes

CAMEROON
Central Africa

Capital: Yaoundé

Population: 23.7 million / 50 people per sq km (130 people per sq mile)

Total area: 475,440 sq km (183,567 sq miles)

Languages: English*, French*, Bamileke, Fang, Fulani

Currency: Central African CFA franc = 100 centimes

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
Central Africa

Capital: Bangui

Population: 5.4 million / 9 people per sq km (23 people per sq mile)

Total area: 622,984 sq km (240,535 sq miles)

Languages: French*, Sangho, Banda, Gbaya

Currency: Central African CFA franc = 100 centimes

CHAD
Central Africa

Capital: N'Djaména

Population: 13.2 million / 10 people per sq km (27 people per sq mile)

Total area: 1,284,000 sq km (495,752 sq miles)

Languages: French*, Arabic*, Sara, Maba

Currency: Central African CFA franc = 100 centimes

CONGO
Central Africa

Capital: Brazzaville

Population: 4.8 million / 14 people per sq km (36 people per sq mile)

Total area: 342,000 sq km (132,046 sq miles)

Languages: French*, Monokutuba, Mikongo, Lingala

Currency: Central African CFA franc = 100 centimes

CONGO, DEM. REP.
Central Africa

Capital: Kinshasa

Population: 79.4 million / 34 people per sq km (88 people per sq mile)

Total area: 2,344,858 sq km (905,355 sq miles)

Languages: French*, Tshiluba, Kikongo, Lingala, Kingwana

Currency: Congolese Franc = 100 centimes

EQUATORIAL GUINEA
Central Africa

Capital: Malabo

Population: 759,451 / 27 people per sq km (70 people per sq mile)

Total area: 28,051 sq km (10,830 sq miles)

Languages: Spanish*, Fang, Bubi

Currency: Central African CFA franc = 100 centimes

GABON
Central Africa

Capital: Libreville

Population: 1.7 million / 6 people per sq km (16 people per sq mile)

Total area: 267,667 sq km (103,346 sq miles)

Languages: French*, Fang, Myene, Bapounou, Nzebi

Currency: Central African CFA franc = 100 centimes

SÃO TOMÉ AND PRINCIPE
West Africa

Capital: São Tomé

Population: 197,541 / 204 people per sq km (531 people per sq mile)

Total area: 964 sq km (372 sq miles)

Languages: Portuguese*, Forro

Currency: Dobra = 100 centimos

ANGOLA
Southern Africa

Capital: Luanda

Population: 25.7 million / 21 people per sq km (54 people per sq mile)

Total area: 1,246,700 sq km (481,351 sq miles)

Languages: Portuguese*, Umbundu, Kimbundu, Kikongo

Currency: Kwanza = 100 centimos

BOTSWANA
Southern Africa

Capital: Gaborone

Population: 2.2 million / 4 people per sq km (10 people per sq mile)

Total area: 581,730 sq km (224,607 sq miles)

Languages: English*, Setswana, Shona, San, Khoikhoi, Ndebele

Currency: Pula = 100 thebe

COMOROS
Indian Ocean

Capital: Moroni

Population: 780,972 / 349 people per sq km (905 people per sq mile)

Total area: 2,235 sq km (863 sq miles)

Languages: Arabic*, French*, Comoran*

Currency: Comoros franc = 100 centimes

LESOTHO
Southern Africa

Capital: Maseru

Population: 2 million / 66 people per sq km (171 people per sq mile)

Total area: 30,355 sq km (11,720 sq miles)

Languages: Sesotho*, English*, Zulu

Currency: Loti = 100 lisente

MADAGASCAR
Indian Ocean

Capital: Antananarivo

Population: 24.4 million / 42 people per sq km (108 people per sq mile)

Total area: 587,041 sq km (226,658 sq miles)

Languages: French*, Malagasy*

Currency: Malagasy ariary = 5 iraimbilanja

MALAWI
Southern Africa

Capital: Lilongwe

Population: 18.6 million / 157 people per sq km (407 people per sq mile)

Total area: 118,484 sq km (45,747 sq miles)

Languages: English*, Chichewa*, Chinyanja, Chiyao

Currency: Malawi kwacha = 100 tambala

MAURITIUS
Indian Ocean

Capital: Port Louis

Population: 1.4 million / 686 people per sq km (1,778 people per sq mile)

Total area: 2,040 sq km (788 sq miles)

Languages: English, French, French Creole

Currency: Mauritian rupee = 100 cents

MOZAMBIQUE
Southern Africa

Capital: Maputo

Population: 26 million / 32 people per sq km (84 people per sq mile)

Total area: 799,380 sq km (308,642 sq miles)

Languages: Portuguese*, Emakhuwa, Xichangana

Currency: Metical = 100 centavos

NAMIBIA
Southern Africa

Capital: Windhoek

Population: 2.4 million / 3 people per sq km (8 people per sq mile)

Total area: 824,292 sq km (318,261 sq miles)

Languages: English*, Oshiwambo languages, Nama, Afrikaans

Currency: Namibian dollar = 100 cents

SEYCHELLES
Indian Ocean

Capital: Victoria

Population: 93,200 / 205 people per sq km (531 people per sq mile)

Total area: 455 sq km (176 sq miles)

Languages: Seychellois Creole*, English*, French*

Currency: Seychelles rupee = 100 cents

SOUTH AFRICA
Southern Africa

Capital: Pretoria (administrative)

Population: 54.3 million / 45 people per sq km (115 people per sq mile)

Total area: 1,219,090 sq km (470,693 sq miles)

Languages: IsiZulu*, IsiXhosa*, Afrikaans*, English*

Currency: Rand = 100 cents

SWAZILAND
Southern Africa

Capital: Mbabane

Population: 1.5 million / 86 people per sq km (224 people per sq mile)

Total area: 17,364 sq km (6,704 sq miles)

Languages: Siswati*, English*

Currency: Lilangeni = 100 cents

ZAMBIA
Southern Africa

Capital: Lusaka

Population: 15.5 million / 21 people per sq km (53 people per sq mile)

Total area: 752,618 sq km (290,587 sq miles)

Languages: English*, Bemba, Nyanja, Tonga

Currency: Zambian kwacha = 100 ngwee

ZIMBABWE
Southern Africa

Capital: Harare

Population: 14.5 million / 37 people per sq km (96 people per sq mile)

Total area: 390,757 sq km (150,872 sq miles)

Languages: Shona*, Ndebele*, English

Currency: US dollar = 100 cents

EUROPE

ICELAND
Northwest Europe

Capital: Reykjavík

Population: 335,900 / 3 people per sq km (8 people per sq mile)

Total area: 103,000 sq km (39,768 sq miles)

Languages: Icelandic*, English

Currency: Icelandic króna = 100 aurar

DENMARK
Northern Europe

Capital: Copenhagen

Population: 5.4 million / 125 people per sq km (325 people per sq mile)

Total area: 43,094 sq km (16,639 sq miles)

Languages: Danish*, Faroese, Inuit

Currency: Danish krone = 100 øre

FINLAND
Northern Europe

Capital: Helsinki

Population: 5.5 million / 16 people per sq km (42 people per sq mile)

Total area: 338,145 sq km (130,559 sq miles)

Languages: Finnish*, Swedish, Sami

Currency: Euro = 100 cents

NORWAY
Northern Europe

Capital: Oslo

Population: 5.3 million / 16 people per sq km (42 people per sq mile)

Total area: 323,802 sq km (125,021 sq miles)

Languages: Norwegian* (Bokmål and Nynorsk), Sami, Finnish

Currency: Norwegian krone = 100 øre

SWEDEN
Northern Europe

Capital: Stockholm

Population: 9.9 million / 22 people per sq km (57 people per sq mile)

Total area: 450,295 sq km (173,860 sq miles)

Languages: Swedish*, Finnish, Sami

Currency: Swedish krona = 100 öre

BELGIUM
Northwest Europe

Capital: Brussels

Population: 11.3 million / 338 people per sq km (874 people per sq mile)

Total area: 30,528 sq km (11,787 sq miles)

Languages: Dutch*, French*, German*, Flemish

Currency: Euro = 100 cents

LUXEMBOURG
Northwest Europe

Capital: Luxembourg

Population: 582,300 / 225 people per sq km (583 people per sq mile)

Total area: 2,586 sq km (998 sq miles)

Languages: French*, German*, Luxembourgish*, Portuguese

Currency: Euro = 100 cents

NETHERLANDS
Northwest Europe

Capital: Amsterdam/The Hague

Population: 17 million / 409 people per sq km (1,060 people per sq mile)

Total area: 41,543 sq km (16,040 sq miles)

Languages: Dutch*, Frisian

Currency: Euro = 100 cents

IRELAND
Northwest Europe

Capital: Dublin

Population: 4.9 million / 70 people per sq km (181 people per sq mile)

Total area: 70,273 sq km (27,133 sq miles)

Languages: English*, Irish*

Currency: Euro = 100 cents

UNITED KINGDOM
Northwest Europe

Capital: London

Population: 64.4 million / 264 people per sq km (685 people per sq mile)

Total area: 243,610 sq km (94,058 sq miles)

Languages: English*, Welsh

Currency: Pound sterling = 100 pence

FRANCE
Western Europe

Capital: Paris

Population: 62.8 million / 114 people per sq km (295 people per sq mile)

Total area: 551,500 sq km (212,935 sq miles)

Languages: French*, Provencal, Breton, Catalan, Basque, Corsican

Currency: Euro = 100 cents

MONACO
Southern Europe

Capital: Monaco

Population: 30,581 / 15,291 people per sq km (39,602 people per sq mile)

Total area: 2 sq km (0.77 sq miles)

Languages: French*, Italian, Monégasque, English

Currency: Euro = 100 cents

ANDORRA
Southwest Europe

Capital: Andorra la Vella

Population: 85,580 / 183 people per sq km (474 people per sq mile)

Total area: 468 sq km (181 sq miles)

Languages: Catalan*, Spanish, French, Portuguese

Currency: Euro = 100 cents

PORTUGAL
Southwest Europe

Capital: Lisbon

Population: 10.8 million / 109 people per sq km (281 people per sq mile)

Total area: 92,090 sq km (35,556 sq miles)

Languages: Portuguese*, Mirandese

Currency: Euro = 100 cents

SPAIN
Southwest Europe

Capital: Madrid

Population: 48.6 million / 96 people per sq km (249 people per sq mile)

Total area: 505,370 sq km (195,125 sq miles)

Languages: Castilian Spanish*, Catalan*, Galician*, Basque*

Currency: Euro = 100 cents

AUSTRIA
Central Europe

Capital: Vienna

Population: 8.7 million / 104 people per sq km (269 people per sq mile)

Total area: 83,871 sq km (32,383 sq miles)

Languages: German*, Turkish, Serbian, Croatian, Slovene, Hungarian (Magyar)

Currency: Euro = 100 cents

GERMANY
Northern Europe

Capital: Berlin

Population: 81 million / 227 people per sq km (588 people per sq mile)

Total area: 357,022 sq km (137,847 sq miles)

Languages: German*

Currency: Euro = 100 cents

LIECHTENSTEIN
Central Europe

Capital: Vaduz

Population: 37,937 / 237 people per sq km (614 people per sq mile)

Total area: 160 sq km (62 sq miles)

Languages: German*, Alemannish dialect, Italian

Currency: Swiss franc = 100 centimes

SLOVENIA
Central Europe

Capital: Ljubljana

Population: 2 million / 99 people per sq km (256 people per sq mile)

Total area: 20,273 sq km (7,827 sq miles)

Languages: Slovene*, Serbo-Croat

Currency: Euro = 100 cents

SWITZERLAND
Central Europe

Capital: Bern

Population: 8.2 million / 199 people per sq km (515 people per sq mile)

Total area: 41,277 sq km (15,937 sq miles)

Languages: German*, French*, Italian*, Romansch*

Currency: Swiss franc = 100 centimes

ITALY
Southern Europe

Capital: Rome

Population: 62 million / 206 people per sq km (533 people per sq mile)

Total area: 301,340 sq km (116,348 sq miles)

Languages: Italian*, German, French, Slovene

Currency: Euro = 100 cents

MALTA
Southern Europe

Capital: Valletta

Population: 415,196 / 1,314 people per sq km (3,403 people per sq mile)

Total area: 316 sq km (122 sq miles)

Languages: Maltese*, English

Currency: Euro = 100 cents

SAN MARINO
Southern Europe

Capital: San Marino

Population: 33,285 / 546 people per sq km (1,413 people per sq mile)

Total area: 61 sq km (24 sq miles)

Language: Italian*

Currency: Euro = 100 cents

VATICAN CITY
Southern Europe

Capital: Vatican City

Population: 1000 / 2,273 people per sq km (5,886 people per sq mile)

Total area: 0.44 sq km (0.17 sq miles)

Languages: Italian*, Latin*

Currency: Euro = 100 cents

CZECH REPUBLIC
Central Europe

Capital: Prague

Population: 10.6 million / 134 people per sq km (348 people per sq mile)

Total area: 78,867 sq km (30,450 sq miles)

Languages: Czech*, Slovak,

Currency: Czech koruna = 100 halers

HUNGARY
Central Europe

Capital: Budapest

Population: 9.9 million / 106 people per sq km (276 people per sq mile)

Total area: 93,028 sq km (35,918 sq miles)

Languages: Hungarian*

Currency: Forint = 100 fillér

POLAND
Northern Europe

Capital: Warsaw

Population: 38.5 million / 123 people per sq km (319 people per sq mile)

Total area: 312,685 sq km (120,728 sq miles)

Languages: Polish*, Silesian

Currency: Zloty = 100 groszy

SLOVAKIA
Central Europe

Capital: Bratislava

Population: 5.5 million / 112 people per sq km (291 people per sq mile)

Total area: 49,035 sq km (18,933 sq miles)

Languages: Slovak*, Hungarian (Magyar), Romany

Currency: Euro = 100 cents

ALBANIA
Southeast Europe

Capital: Tirana

Population: 3 million / 104 people per sq km (270 people per sq mile)

Total area: 28,748 sq km (11,100 sq miles)

Languages: Albanian*, Greek, Macedonian

Currency: Lek = 100 qindarkas

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
Southeast Europe

Capital: Sarajevo

Population: 3.9 million / 76 people per sq km (197 people per sq mile)

Total area: 51,197 sq km (19,767 sq miles)

Languages: Bosnian*, Croatian*, Serbian*

Currency: Marka = 100 pfenigs

CROATIA
Southeast Europe

Capital: Zagreb

Population: 4.5 million / 80 people per sq km (206 people per sq mile)

Total area: 56,594 sq km (21,851 sq miles)

Languages: Croatian*, Serbian, Hungarian

Currency: Kuna = 100 lipa

MACEDONIA
Southeast Europe

Capital: Skopje

Population: 2.1 million / 82 people per sq km (212 people per sq mile)

Total area: 25,713 sq km (9,928 sq miles)

Languages: Macedonian*, Albanian, Turkish

Currency: Macedonian denar = 100 deni

MONTENEGRO
Southern Europe

Capital: Podgorica

Population: 644,578 / 47 people per sq km (121 people per sq mile)

Total area: 13,812 sq km (5,322 sq miles)

Languages: Montenegrin*, Serbian, Bosnian, Albanian

Currency: Euro = 100 cents

SERBIA
Southern Europe

Capital: Belgrade

Population: 7.1 million / 92 people per sq km (238 people per sq mile)

Total area: 77,474 sq km (29,913 sq miles)

Languages: Serbian*, Hungarian

Currency: Serbian dinar = 100 para

CYPRUS
Southeast Europe

Capital: Nicosia

Population: 1.2 million / 130 people per sq km (336 people per sq mile)

Total area: 9,250 sq km (3,751 sq miles)

Languages: Greek*, Turkish*, English

Currency: Euro = 100 cents

BULGARIA
Southeast Europe

Capital: Sofia

Population: 7.2 million / 65 people per sq km (168 people per sq mile)

Total area: 110,879 sq km (42,811 sq miles)

Languages: Bulgarian*, Turkish, Roma

Currency: Lev = 100 stotinki

GREECE
Southeast Europe

Capital: Athens

Population: 10.7 million / 81 people per sq km (210 people per sq mile)

Total area: 131,957 sq km (50,949 sq miles)

Languages: Greek*

Currency: Euro = 100 cents

BELARUS
Eastern Europe

Capital: Minsk

Population: 9.6 million / 46 people per sq km (120 people per sq mile)

Total area: 207,600 sq km (80,154 sq miles)

Languages: Belarussian*, Russian*

Currency: New Belarussian rouble = 100 copecks

ESTONIA
Northeast Europe

Capital: Tallinn

Population: 1.3 million / 29 people per sq km (74 people per sq mile)

Total area: 45,228 sq km (17,463 sq miles)

Languages: Estonian*, Russian

Currency: Euro = 100 cents

LATVIA
Northeast Europe

Capital: Riga

Population: 2 million / 31 people per sq km (80 people per sq mile)

Total area: 64,589 sq km (24,938 sq miles)

Languages: Latvian*, Russian

Currency: Euro = 100 cents

LITHUANIA

Northeast Europe

Capital: Vilnius

Population: 2.8 million / 43 people per sq km (111 people per sq mile)

Total area: 65,300 sq km (25,213 sq miles)

Languages: Lithuanian*, Russian

Currency: Euro = 100 cents

MOLDOVA

Southeast Europe

Capital: Chisinau

Population: 3.5 million / 103 people per sq km (268 people per sq mile)

Total area: 33,851 sq km (13,070 sq miles)

Languages: Moldovan*, Romanian, Russian

Currency: Moldovan leu = 100 bani

ROMANIA

Southeast Europe

Capital: Bucharest

Population: 21.6 million / 91 people per sq km (235 people per sq mile)

Total area: 237,500 sq km (91,699 sq miles)

Languages: Romanian*, Hungarian, Romany

Currency: Romanian leu = 100 bani

UKRAINE

Eastern Europe

Capital: Kiev

Population: 44.2 million / 73 people per sq km (190 people per sq mile)

Total area: 603,550 sq km (233,031 sq miles)

Languages: Ukrainian*, Russian

Currency: Hryvnia = 100 kopiykas

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Europe/Asia

Capital: Moscow

Population: 142.4 million 8 people per sq km / (22 people per sq mile)

Total area: 17,098,242 sq km (6,601,668 sq miles)

Languages: Russian*, Tatar

Currency: Russian Rouble = 100 kopeks

ASIA

KAZAKHSTAN

Central Asia

Capital: Astana

Population: 18.4 million / 6 people per sq km (15 people per sq mile)

Total area: 2,724,900 sq km (1,052,090 sq miles)

Languages: Kazakh*, Russian

Currency: Tenge = 100 tiin

ARMENIA

Southwest Asia

Capital: Yerevan

Population: 3.1 million / 104 people per sq km (270 people per sq mile)

Total area: 29,743 sq km (11,484 sq miles)

Languages: Armenian*, Russian, Kurdish

Currency: Dram = 100 luma

AZERBAIJAN

Southwest Asia

Capital: Baku

Population: 9.8 million / 113 people per sq km (293 people per sq mile)

Total area: 86,600 sq km (33,436 sq miles)

Languages: Azeri*, Russian

Currency: Manat = 100 qopiks

GEORGIA

Southwest Asia

Capital: Tbilisi

Population: 4.9 million / 70 people per sq km (182 people per sq mile)

Total area: 69,700 sq km (26,911 sq miles)

Languages: Georgian*, Russian

Currency: Lari = 100 tetri

TURKEY

Asia/Europe

Capital: Ankara

Population: 80.3 million / 103 people per sq km (265 people per sq mile)

Total area: 783,562 sq km (302,535 sq miles)

Languages: Turkish*, Kurdish

Currency: Turkish lira = 100 kurus

ISRAEL

Southwest Asia

Capital: Jerusalem (disputed)

Population: 8.2 million / 395 people per sq km (1,023 people per sq mile)

Total area: 20,770 sq km (8,019 sq miles)

Languages: Hebrew*, Arabic, English

Currency: Shekel = 100 agorot

JORDAN

Southwest Asia

Capital: Amman

Population: 8.2 million / 55 people per sq km (143 people per sq mile)

Total area: 89,342 sq km (34,495 sq miles)

Languages: Arabic*

Currency: Jordanian dinar = 1,000 fils

LEBANON

Southwest Asia

Capital: Beirut

Population: 6.2 million / 596 people per sq km (1,544 people per sq mile)

Total area: 10,400 sq km (4,015 sq miles)

Languages: Arabic*, French, Armenian, Assyrian

Currency: Lebanese pound = 100 piastres

SYRIA

Southwest Asia

Capital: Damascus

Population: 17.2 million / 93 people per sq km (241 people per sq mile)

Total area: 185,180 sq km (71,498 sq miles)

Languages: Arabic*, Kurdish, Armenian, Circassian, Aramaic

Currency: Syrian pound = 100 piastres

BAHRAIN

Southwest Asia

Capital: Manama

Population: 1.3 million / 1,772 people per sq km (4,590 people per sq mile)

Total area: 720 sq km (293 sq miles)

Languages: Arabic*, English, Urdu, Farsi

Currency: Bahraini dinar = 1,000 fils

IRAN

Southwest Asia

Capital: Tehran

Population: 82.8 million / 50 people per sq km (130 people per sq mile)

Total area: 1,648,195 sq km (636,372 sq miles)

Languages: Farsi (Persian)*, Azeri, Gilaki, Balochi, Mazandarani, Kurdish, Arabic

Currency: Iranian rial = 10 tomans

IRAQ

Southwest Asia

Capital: Baghdad

Population: 38.2 million / 87 people per sq km (226 people per sq mile)

Total area: 438,317 sq km (169,235 sq miles)

Languages: Arabic*, Kurdish*, Armenian, Assyrian, Turkic languages

Currency: Iraqi dinar = 100 fils

KUWAIT

Southwest Asia

Capital: Kuwait City

Population: 2.8 million / 157 people per sq km (407 people per sq mile)

Total area: 17,820 sq km (6,880 sq miles)

Languages: Arabic*, English

Currency: Kuwaiti dinar = 1,000 fils

OMAN

Southwest Asia

Capital: Muscat

Population: 3.4 million / 11 people per sq km (28 people per sq mile)

Total area: 309,500 sq km (119,499 sq miles)

Languages: Arabic*, Baluchi

Currency: Omani rial = 1000 baizas

QATAR

Southwest Asia

Capital: Doha

Population: 2.3 million / 198 people per sq km (514 people per sq mile)

Total area: 11,586 sq km (4,473 sq miles)

Languages: Arabic*

Currency: Qatar riyal = 100 dirhams

SAUDI ARABIA

Southwest Asia

Capital: Riyadh

Population: 28.1 million / 13 people per sq km (34 people per sq mile)

Total area: 2,149,690 sq km (830,000 sq miles)

Languages: Arabic*

Currency: Saudi riyal = 100 halalas

UNITED ARAR EMIRATES

Southwest Asia

Capital: Abu Dhabi

Population: 5.9 million / 71 people per sq km (183 people per sq mile)

Total area: 82,600 sq km (32,278 sq miles)

Languages: Arabic*, Farsi, English, Indian and Pakistani languages

Currency: UAE dirham = 100 fils

YEMEN

Southwest Asia

Capital: Sana

Population: 27.4 million / 52 people per sq km (134 people per sq mile)

Total area: 527,968 sq km (203,850 sq miles)

Languages: Arabic*

Currency: Yemeni rial = 100 fils

AFGHANISTAN

Central Asia

Capital: Kabul

Population: 32 million / 50 people per sq km (129 people per sq mile)

Total area: 652,230 sq km (251,827 sq miles)

Languages: Persian*, Pashto*, Uzbek, Turkmen

Currency: Afghani = 100 puls

KYRGYZSTAN

Central Asia

Capital: Bishkek

Population: 5.7 million / 29 people per sq km (74 people per sq mile)

Total area: 199,951 sq km (77,202 sq miles)

Languages: Krygyz*, Russian*, Uzbek

Currency: Som = 100 tyiyn

TAJIKISTAN

Central Asia

Capital: Dushanbe

Population: 8.3 million / 58 people per sq km (149 people per sq mile)

Total area: 144,100 sq km (55,637 sq miles)

Languages: Tajik*, Russian

Currency: Somoni = 100 diram

TURKMENISTAN

Central Asia

Capital: Ashgabat

Population: 5.3 million / 11 people per sq km (28 people per sq mile)

Total area: 488,100 sq km (188,455 sq miles)

Languages: Turkmen*, Russian, Uzbek

Currency: Manat = 100 tenge

UZBEKISTAN

Central Asia

Capital: Tashkent

Population: 29.5 million / 66 people per sq km (171 people per sq mile)

Total area: 447,400 sq km (172,741 sq miles)

Languages: Uzbek*, Russian

Currency: Som = 100 tiyin

CHINA

East Asia

Capital: Beijing

Population: 1.37 billion / 143 people per sq km (370 people per sq mile)

Total area: 9,596,960 sq km (3,705,960 sq miles)

Languages: Mandarin*, Wu, Cantonese, Xiang, Min, Hakka, Gan

Currency: Yuan (Renminbi) = 100 fen

MONGOLIA

East Asia

Capital: Ulan Bator

Population: 3 million / 2 people per sq km (4 people per sq mile)

Total area: 1,566,116 sq km (603,909 sq miles)

Languages: Khalkha Mongolian*, Kazakh, Chinese, Russian

Currency: Tögrög = 100 möngös

NORTH KOREA

East Asia

Capital: Pyongyang

Population: 25.1 million / 208 people per sq km (539 people per sq mile)

Total area: 120,538 sq km (46,540 sq miles)

Languages: Korean*

Currency: North Korean won = 100 chon

SOUTH KOREA

East Asia

Capital: Seoul

Population: 50.9 million / 510 people per sq km (1,322 people per sq mile)

Total area: 99,720 sq km (38,502 sq miles)

Languages: Korean*

Currency: South Korean won = 100 jeon

TAIWAN

East Asia

Capital: Taipei

Population: 22.5 million / 625 people per sq km (1,620 people per sq mile)

Total area: 35,980 sq km (13,892 sq miles)

Languages: Mandarin Chinese*, Taiwanese (Min), Hakka Chinese

Currency: Taiwan dollar = 100 cents

JAPAN

East Asia

Capital: Tokyo

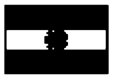
Population: 127.7 million / 335 people per sq km (868 people per sq mile)

Total area: 377,915 sq km (145,914 sq miles)

Languages: Japanese

Currency: Yen = 100 sen

INDIA



South Asia

Capital: New Delhi

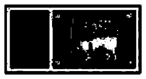
Population: 1.27 billion / 386 people per sq km (1,001 people per sq mile)

Total area: 3,287,263 sq km (1,269,219 sq miles)

Languages: Hindi*, English*, Urdu, Bengali, Marathi, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, other

Currency: Indian rupee = 100 paise

SRI LANKA



South Asia

Capital: Colombo

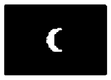
Population: 22.2 million / 338 people per sq km (876 people per sq mile)

Total area: 65,610 sq km (25,332 sq miles)

Languages: Sinhalese*, Tamil, English

Currency: Sri Lanka rupee = 100 cents

MALDIVES



Indian Ocean

Capital: Malé

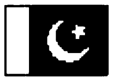
Population: 393,000 / 1,319 people per sq km (3,415 people per sq mile)

Total area: 298 sq km (115 sq miles)

Languages: Dhivehi*, English

Currency: Rufiyaa = 100 laari

PAKISTAN



South Asia

Capital: Islamabad

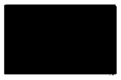
Population: 202 million / 254 people per sq km (657 people per sq mile)

Total area: 796,095 sq km (307,374 sq miles)

Languages: Urdu*, Punjabi, Sindhi, Pashtu, Balochi

Currency: Pakistani rupee = 100 paise

BANGLADESH



South Asia

Capital: Dhaka

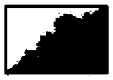
Population: 169 million / 1,138 people per sq km (2,948 people per sq mile)

Total area: 148,460 sq km (57,321 sq miles)

Languages: Bengali*, Urdu, Chakma

Currency: Taka = 100 poisha

BHUTAN



South Asia

Capital: Thimphu

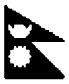
Population: 741,919 / 19 people per sq km (50 people per sq mile)

Total area: 38,394 sq km (14,824 sq miles)

Languages: Dzongkha*, Sharchhopka, Lhotshamkha

Currency: Ngultrum = 100 chetrum

NEPAL



South Asia

Capital: Kathmandu

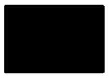
Population: 29 million / 197 people per sq km (510 people per sq mile)

Total area: 147,181 sq km (56,827 sq miles)

Languages: Nepali*, Maithili, Bhojpuri

Currency: Nepalese rupee = 100 paise

CAMBODIA



Southeast Asia

Capital: Phnom Penh

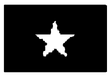
Population: 15.7 million / 87 people per sq km (225 people per sq mile)

Total area: 181,035 sq km (69,898 sq miles)

Languages: Khmer*, French, Chinese, Vietnamese, Cham

Currency: Riel = 100 sen

LAOS



Southeast Asia

Capital: Vientiane

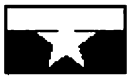
Population: 7 million / 30 people per sq km (77 people per sq mile)

Total area: 236,800 sq km (91,428 sq miles)

Languages: Lao*, various local dialects, French

Currency: New kip = 100 att

MYANMAR (BURMA)



Southeast Asia

Capital: Nay Pyi Taw

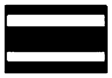
Population: 56.9 million / 84 people per sq km (218 people per sq mile)

Total area: 676,578 sq km (261,228 sq miles)

Languages: Burmese*

Currency: Kyat = 100 pyas

THAILAND



Southeastern Asia

Capital: Bangkok

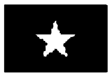
Population: 68.2 million / 133 people per sq km (344 people per sq mile)

Total area: 513,120 sq km (198,117 sq miles)

Languages: Thai*, Burmese

Currency: Baht = 100 satangs

VIETNAM



Southeast Asia

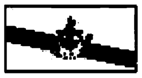
Capital: Hanoi

Population: 95.3 million / 288 people per sq km (745 people per sq mile)

Languages: Vietnamese*, Chinese, Khmer

Currency: Dông = 10 hao = 100 xu

BRUNEI



Southeast Asia

Capital: Bandar Seri Begawan

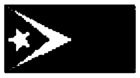
Population: 429,646 / 75 people per sq km (193 people per sq mile)

Total area: 5,765 sq km (2,226 sq miles)

Languages: Malay*, English, Chinese

Currency: Brunei dollar = 100 cents

EAST TIMOR



Southeast Asia

Capital: Dili

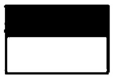
Population: 1.2 million / 81 people per sq km (210 people per sq mile)

Total area: 14,874 sq km (3,756 sq miles)

Languages: Tetum*, Indonesian, Portuguese*

Currency: US dollar = 100 cents

INDONESIA



Southeast Asia

Capital: Jakarta

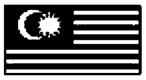
Population: 258 million / 135 people per sq km (351 people per sq mile)

Total area: 1,904,569 sq km (735,358 sq miles)

Languages: Bahasa Indonesia*, more than 700 other languages are used

Currency: Rupiah = 100 sen

MALAYSIA



Southeast Asia

Capital: Kuala Lumpur

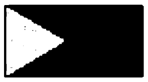
Population: 31 million / 94 people per sq km (243 people per sq mile)

Total area: 329,847 sq km (127,355 sq miles)

Languages: Bahasa Malaysia*, Chinese*, English, Tamil

Currency: Ringgit = 100 sen

PHILIPPINES



Southeast Asia

Capital: Manila

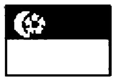
Population: 102.6 million / 342 people per sq km (886 people per sq mile)

Total area: 300,000 sq km (115,830 sq miles)

Languages: Filipino*, English*, Cebuano

Currency: Philippine Peso = 100 centavos

SINGAPORE



Southeast Asia

Capital: Singapore

Population: 5.8 million / 8,321 people per sq km (21,552 people per sq mile)

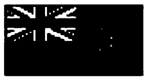
Total area: 697 sq km (269 sq miles)

Languages: Malay*, Mandarin*, English*, Tamil*

Currency: Singapore dollar = 100 cents

AUSTRALASIA AND OCEANIA

FIJI



Australasia and Oceania

Capital: Suva

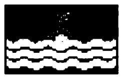
Population: 915,303 / 50 people per sq km (130 people per sq mile)

Total area: 18,274 sq km (7,055 sq miles)

Languages: Fijian*, English*, Hindi, Urdu, Tamil, Telegu

Currency: Fijian dollar = 100 cents

KIRIBATI



Australasia and Oceania

Capital: Tarawa Atoll

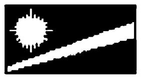
Population: 106,925 / 132 people per sq km (342 people per sq mile)

Total area: 811 sq km (313 sq miles)

Languages: English*, Kiribati

Currency: Australian dollar = 100 cents

MARSHALL ISLANDS



Australasia and Oceania

Capital: Majuro

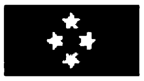
Population: 73,376 / 405 people per sq km (1,050 people per sq mile)

Total area: 181 sq km (70 sq miles)

Languages: Marshallese*, English*

Currency: US dollar = 100 cents

MICRONESIA



Australasia and Oceania

Capital: Palikir

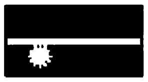
Population: 104,700 / 189 people per sq km (490 people per sq mile)

Total area: 702 sq km (271 sq miles)

Languages: English, Trukese, Pohnpeian, Mortlockese, Kosrean

Currency: US dollar = 100 cents

NAURU



Australasia and Oceania

Capital: No official capital

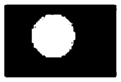
Population: 9,591 / 457 people per sq km (1,183 people per sq mile)

Total area: 21 sq km (8 sq miles)

Languages: Nauruan*, English, Kiribati, Chinese

Currency: Australian dollar = 100 cents

PALAU



Australasia and Oceania

Capital: Melekeok

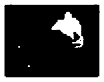
Population: 21,347 / 47 people per sq km (121 people per sq mile)

Total area: 459 sq km (177 sq miles)

Languages: Palauan, English*, Sonsorolese*

Currency: US dollar = 100 cents

PAPUA NEW GUINEA



Australasia and Oceania

Capital: Port Moresby

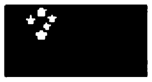
Population: 6.8 million / 15 people per sq km (38 people per sq mile)

Total area: 462,840 sq km (178,703 sq miles)

Languages: Tok Pisin*, English*, Hiri Motu*, over 800 native languages

Currency: Kina = 100 toea

SAMOA



Australasia and Oceania

Capital: Apia

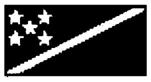
Population: 198,930 / 70 people per sq km (182 people per sq mile)

Total area: 2,831 sq km (1,093 sq miles)

Languages: Samoan*, English

Currency: Tala = 100 sene

SOLOMON ISLANDS



Australasia and Oceania

Capital: Honiara

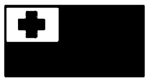
Population: 635,000 / 22 people per sq km (57 people per sq mile)

Total area: 28,896 sq km (11,157 sq miles)

Languages: English*, Melanesian Pidgin, 120 indigenous languages

Currency: Solomon Islands dollar = 100 cents

TONGA



Australasia and Oceania

Capital: Nuku'alofa

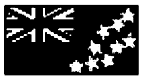
Population: 106,500 / 141 people per sq km (366 people per sq mile)

Total area: 747 sq km (288 sq miles)

Languages: Tongan*, English

Currency: Pa'anga = 100 seniti

TUVALU



Australasia and Oceania

Capital: Funafuti Atoll

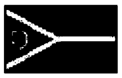
Population: 10,900 / 419 people per sq km (1,086 people per sq mile)

Total area: 26 sq km (10 sq miles)

Languages: Tuvaluan*, English*, Kiribati

Currency: Australian/Tuvaluan dollar = 100 cents

VANUATU



Australasia and Oceania

Capital: Port Vila

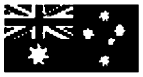
Population: 277,600 / 23 people per sq km (59 people per sq mile)

Total area: 12,189 sq km (4,706 sq miles)

Languages: Bislama*, English*, French*

Currency: Vatu

AUSTRALIA



Australasia and Oceania

Capital: Canberra

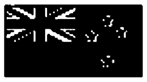
Population: 22.8 million / 3 people per sq km (8 people per sq mile)

Total area: 7,741,220 sq km (2,988,902 sq miles)

Languages: English*, Mandarin, Greek, Arabic, Italian, Aboriginal languages

Currency: Australian dollar = 100 cents

NEW ZEALAND



Australasia and Oceania

Capital: Wellington

Population: 4.5 million / 17 people per sq km (43 people per sq mile)

Total area: 268,838 sq km (103,799 sq miles)

Languages: English*, Maori*

Currency: New Zealand dollar = 100 cents

Glossary

Alkaline
Describes something that contains high levels of salts, such as a lake.

Amerindian
The peoples native to America, who lived there long before the arrival of European explorers and settlers.

Amphibious
Term used to describe a cold-blooded animal that is able to live both on land and in water, such as frogs, toads, and salamanders.

Aquatic
Animal or plant that lives in water.

Arachnid
Type of animal, such as a spider or a scorpion, that has a two-part body and four pairs of legs.

Archipelago
A group, or chain, of islands.

Arthropod
An animal without a backbone but with a hard outer shell, and with legs that can bend in many places, such as crabs, spiders, and centipedes.

Asteroid
A small body of rock or metal that circles the Sun, mainly between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter.

Atmosphere
The layer of gases, including oxygen and nitrogen, that surrounds Earth and protects us from radiation and debris coming in from space.

Atoll
A circular, or horseshoe-shaped, coral reef enclosing a shallow area of water (lagoon).

Biome
A large area that has a particular climate, type of vegetation, and species of animals living in it.

Birth rate
The number of children born in an area, usually measured in the number of live births per 1,000 individuals within a population, or the average number of children per woman in that area.

Boreal forest
A type of coniferous forest – *see* taiga.

Broadleaf forest
A type of forest that can be temperate (with trees such as oak) or tropical (with various type of palm trees).

Caldera
A huge crater in a volcano, often formed by the collapse of the volcano's cone during an eruption.

Canyon
A steep valley that has been carved through rock by a river.

Civil war
A war between people living in the same country, because of political, religious, or racial differences.

Climate
What the weather is usually like, over a long time, in a specific area.

Climate change
When the climate is changing, due to Earth's atmosphere getting hotter because of human activity, such as pollution. Higher temperatures will affect weather systems, which in turn will affect the people, animals, and plants living in an area.

Coniferous
A type of tree or shrub, such as pine or fir, that has needles instead of leaves. They are found in both temperate and boreal forests.

Continent
One of the seven large landmasses on Earth: North America, South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, Australasia and Oceania, and Antarctica.

Crust
The hard, thin, outer shell of Earth.

Deciduous forest
A type of broadleaf forest found in temperate regions.

Deforestation
The cutting down of trees for timber or to clear the land for farming or for roads. It can lead to soil erosion.

Delta
A low-lying, fan-shaped area at a river mouth, usually where it flows into the sea. It is formed by layers of sediment brought along by the river.

Democracy
A system of ruling a country in which the people have a say, usually in the form of voting for who will be the country's leader (such as a president or prime minister).

Desert
A very arid (dry) region that has little or no precipitation. Some are cold deserts, such as the barren areas of rock and ice in the Arctic and Antarctic.

Dictatorship
The rule of a country by a person who often came to, or held on to, power without the vote of their people; the opposite of democracy.

Disputed territory
An area, or country, that wants to be independent from another, but that has not been officially recognized by the original nation, or the United Nations (UN).

Diversity
The variety of plants and animals in an ecosystem; or of different people living in an area.

Dormant
Describes a volcano which is not extinct but that has not erupted for a long time, although is likely to do so in the future.

Ecosystem
How all living things in an area interact with each other, the climate, and the various habitats there.

Elevation
The height of land above sea level.

Endemic
An animal or plant that is native and particular to one specific area.

Equator
The 0° line of latitude. It divides Earth into the northern and southern hemispheres.

Erosion
The wearing down of the land surface by running water, waves, ice, wind, and weather.

Evolution
How animals and plants change and develop over a long time, in order to adapt and survive.

Extinct
Refers to an animal that no longer exists, due to over-hunting or loss of habitat.

Fjord
A long, narrow, and deep inlet of sea situated between steep, coastal mountain sides.

Geyser
A fountain of hot water that erupts regularly as underground streams come into contact with hot rocks.

Glaciation
When ice sheets and glaciers grow and how that changes the landscape.

Glacier
A mass of ice made up of compacted and frozen snow, which moves slowly down a mountain, eroding and depositing rocks as it flows.

Gravity
The pulling force that attracts objects to each other – it keeps us on Earth, and planets in their orbits.

Habitat
The environment or place in which an animal or plant normally lives.

Hemisphere
The northern hemisphere is the half of Earth that sits above the Equator; the southern hemisphere is the half of the globe that falls below it.

Hominin
Humans, including the very first type of human ancestor, that first appeared in Africa about 7 million years ago.

Hurricane
A violent, tropical storm, also known as a cyclone in the Indian Ocean, and as a typhoon in the Pacific Ocean.

Iceberg
A large, floating mass of ice that has broken off from a glacier, or ice shelf, with most of its body underwater.

Ice sheet
A permanent layer of ice that covers large areas of land, such as in Antarctica or Greenland.

Ice shelf
A permanent layer of ice that floats on water, but which is partly attached to land.

Inca empire
A powerful ancient empire located in the Andes mountains of South America, which was conquered by the Spanish in the 16th century.

Indigenous
A plant, animal, or people native to a geographical area.

Infrastructure
A term used to describe the things that make a country or region function, such as roads, transport, communications, schools, and industry.

Interstellar
Means "between stars".

Invertebrate
Animals that do not have a backbone, such as insects, crabs, and worms.

Isthmus
A narrow strip of land with water on either side that connects two larger landmasses.

Lagoon
A shallow stretch of coastal salt-water that is partly sheltered behind a barrier, such as a sandbank or coral reef; *see* atoll.

Latitude
A series of imaginary lines that run parallel to the Equator, measured in degrees north or south of it. The Equator is 0°, the North Pole 90°N, and the South Pole 90°S.

Longitude
As latitude, but giving the distance for how far east or west something is from 0° longitude in Greenwich, London, in the United Kingdom.

Mammal
Warm-blooded animals that give birth to babies that feed on milk.

Mangrove
Trees and shrubs that grow along muddy shores and river banks, often in salty water, and with many of their roots exposed.

Marsupial
A type of mammal, such as a kangaroo, that keeps its young in a pouch on its stomach until they can manage for themselves.

Mayan empire
An ancient civilization in South America that existed from around 2,000 BCE to the 16th century, when they were conquered by the Spanish.

Metropolitan area
The built-up, often densely populated area surrounding a city, including suburbs and nearby urban areas.

Migration
The movement of animals or people from one place to another, often to find food or to breed.

Molten
Rock or metal that has been heated to liquid form; lava is molten rock.

Monsoon
A seasonal wind in South and East Asia that brings heavy rains.

Montane
The type of biome (climate, plants, and wildlife) found in mountains.

Nomad
People who move around a region to find fresh pasture for their herds.

Oasis
A fertile, green area in a desert that usually gets its water from underground sources.

Peninsula
A thin strip of land that sticks out from the mainland into the sea.

Plain
A flat, low-lying region of land.

Plateau
A flat area of land on a highland.

Population density
Describes how crowded or sparsely populated an area is, based on how many people live per square kilometre or square mile – it is worked out by dividing a country's (or city's) population by its area.

Precipitation
The moisture that falls from the atmosphere onto Earth, in the form of rain, snow, hail, or sleet.

Prevailing winds
Commonly occurring winds that blow in the same direction, and which influence the climate of a particular region.

Rainforest
Dense forests growing in tropical zones, with high rainfall, temperature, and humidity.

Rift valley
A long depression in Earth's crust, formed by the sinking of rocks between two faults or plates.

River basin
The land into which water (usually in the form of rivers) gathers.

Rural
Relating to unbuilt areas, usually countryside; the opposite of urban.

Sea ice
The ice that forms when ocean water in the polar regions freezes.

Steppe
Large areas of dry grassland in the northern hemisphere – especially in southeast Europe and central Asia.

Subcontinent
A large landmass that is part of a continent, such as India (subcontinent) in Asia (continent).

Sub-tropical
An area or climate that is nearly tropical, located to the north or south of the tropics.

Taiga
The Russian word for a coniferous forest.

Tectonic plates
Huge interlocking plates that make up Earth's surface. A plate boundary is the point at which plates meet, and where earthquakes often occur.

Temperate
The mild, variable climate found in areas between the tropics and cold polar regions.

Tetrapod
Any vertebrate (animal that has a spine) with four limbs (arms or legs).

Time zone
The world is split into 39 different time zones. Most are set whole hours ahead or behind Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) – the time at the Greenwich Meridian in London, UK. Some, however, are whole hours plus 30 or 45 minutes ahead or behind UTC.

Trade wind
A prevailing wind that blows towards the Equator, either from northeast or southeast.

Trench
A deep valley in the ocean floor, formed when tectonic plates collide.

Tributary
A stream or small river that feeds into a larger one.

Tropical
Referring to the climate or biomes in the areas just north and south of the Equator. These areas are characterized by heavy rainfall, high temperatures, and no clearly defined seasons.

Tundra
A biome in the very cold, northern parts of Europe, North America, and Asia, in which the ground never thaws beneath the surface (called permafrost).

United Nations (UN)
An organization of 193 states that work together to keep peace in the world, and make it better for all people who live here.

UNESCO
Part of the UN, UNESCO works for peace by helping people understand each other through their cultures. They have made a list of heritage sites that should be protected, ranging from natural landscapes to historic buildings.

Urban
Built up; relating to living in a town or a city.

Urbanization
A term that refers to both the growth of towns and cities, and to the number of people that move from rural to urban areas.

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Climate data
Hijmans, R.J., S.E. Cameron, J.L. Parra, P.G. Jones and A. Jarvis, 2005. Very high resolution interpolated climate surfaces for global land areas.

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Paleogeography globes
Derived from original maps produced by Colorado Plateau Geosystems Inc.

Landsat satellite data for feature spread 3D models
These data are distributed by the Land Processes Distributed Active Archive Center (LP DAAC), located at USGS/EROS, Sioux Falls, SD. http://lpdaac.usgs.gov

Night time
Data courtesy Marc Imhoff of NASA GSFC and Christopher Elvidge of NOAA NGDC. Image by Craig Mayhew and Robert Simmon, NASA GSFC.

Wildlife biomes data
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